



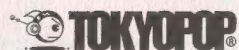
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Pet Shop of Horrors

Volume 4
by Matsuri Akino



LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON

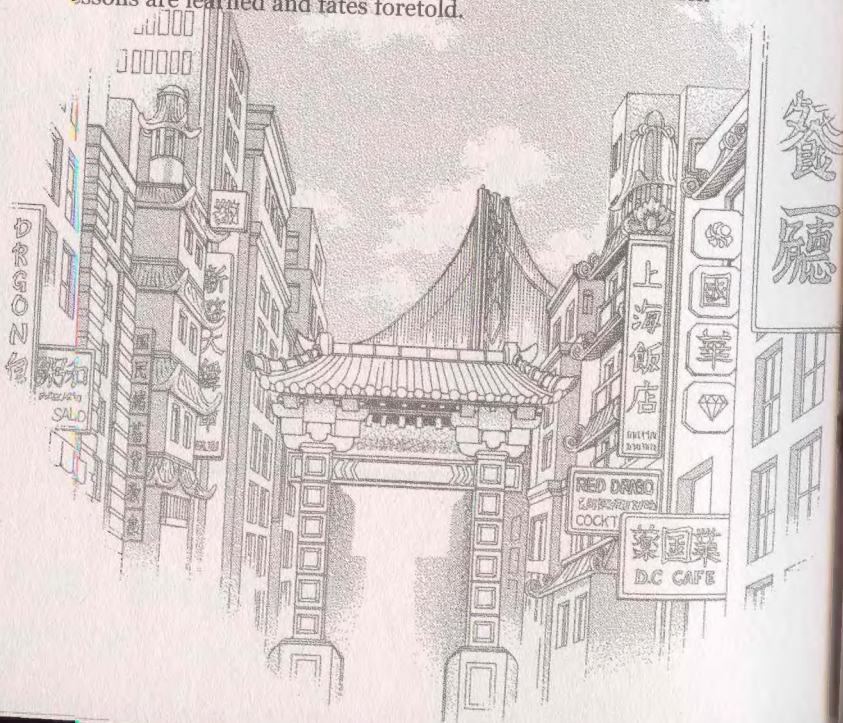


Story so far

Plumes of mist billow up from the back alleys of Chinatown, home to a variety of merchants of the occult and mystical. A sharp breeze drives the mist out into the crowded streets, revealing here, in the crevices of the concrete jungle, a solitary pet shop. Its proprietor, an enigmatic figure known only as Count D, beckons through his doors the injured and the scarred, introducing them to creatures friendly and bizarre.

Our guide through this mysterious landscape is one Detective Leon Orcot who has traced a series of seemingly unrelated crimes to Count D and his Pet Shop of Horrors. A steadfast skeptic, Leon dismisses as trickery the inexplicable events he witnesses. However, this hard-boiled clik is driven to prove Count D's guilt, or to catch a glimpse of the magic he wields.

Prepare yourselves for four tales of wonder and woe in which lessons are learned and fates foretold.



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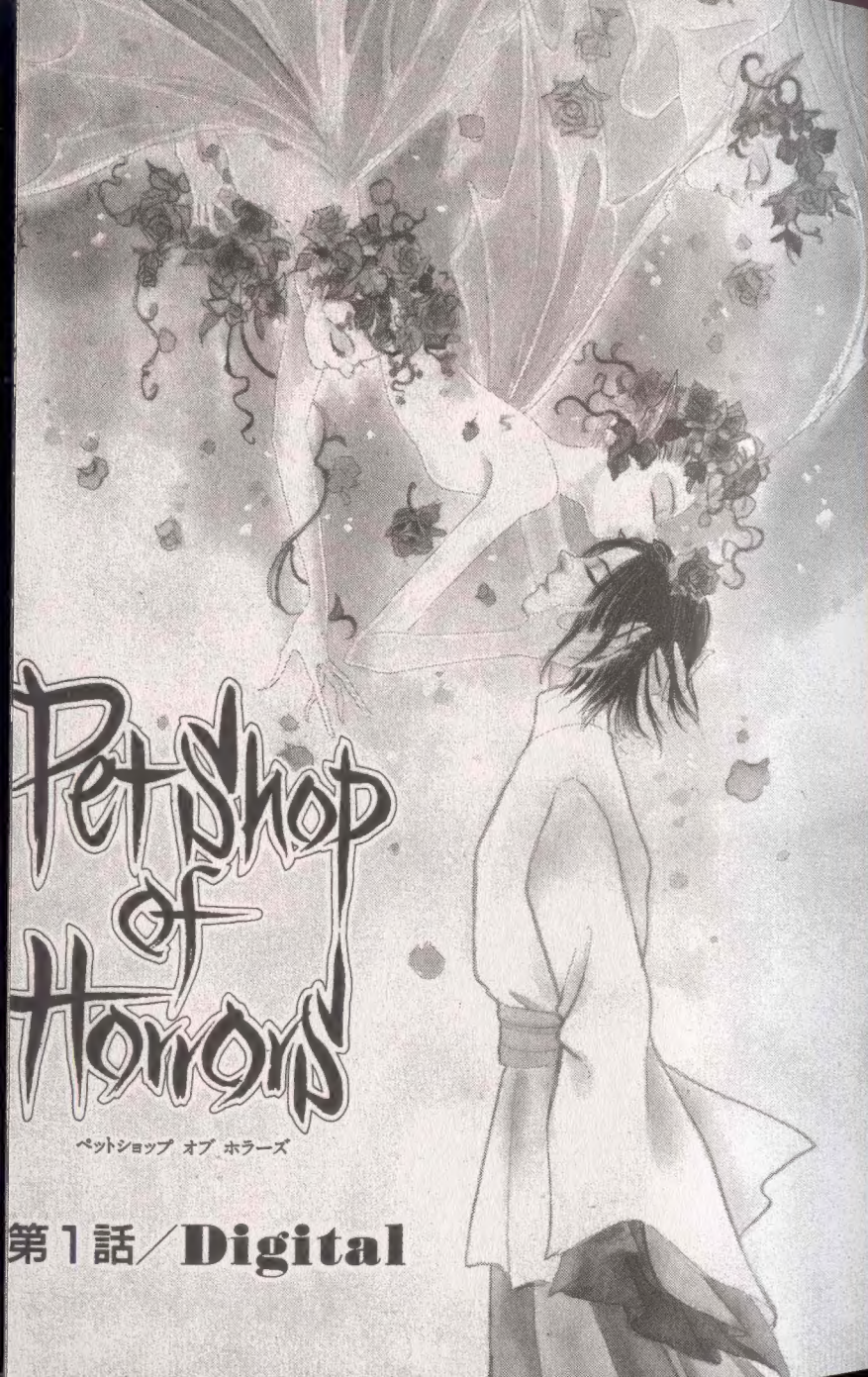
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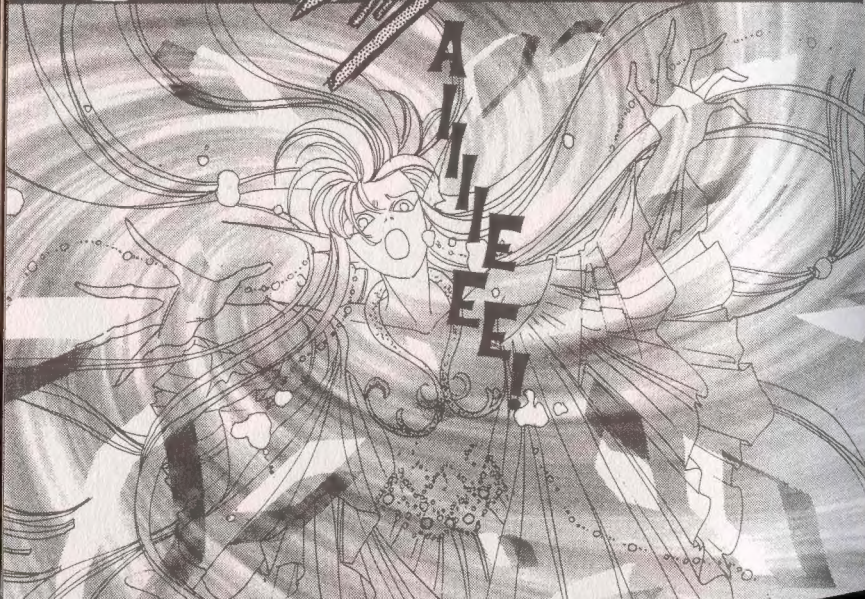
Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ

第1話 / **Digital**



1	Digital.....	7
2	Flowers and the Detective-Part 1.....	53
3	Dark Horse.....	115
4	Flowers and the Detective-Part 2.....	168
5	Dracula.....	115
	Pet Catalog.....	218





ALL THE GLASS
TANKS IN THIS
PLACE, YOU
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO GET A GOOD
LIFT SOMEWHERE.

YOU
CHECK
FOR
PRINTS?

ANGRY EX-
GIRLFRIEND?
BOTCHED
ROBBERY?

SO WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?
DRUG DEAL
GONE
BAD?

Damn, it
stinks!



WHOEVER DID THIS
WAS METHODICAL
ABOUT HIS
CLEANUP. I JUST
HOPE HE LEFT US
SOMETHING TO
GO ON...

I HOPE SO.
THIS PLACE IS
PRACTICALLY
STERILE.

IT'S LIKE
NO ONE'S
BEEN IN
HERE, EVEN
TO FEED THE
FISH.



JODY
MCDOWELL.
CAUCASIAN.
MALE. 23
YEARS OF
AGE.

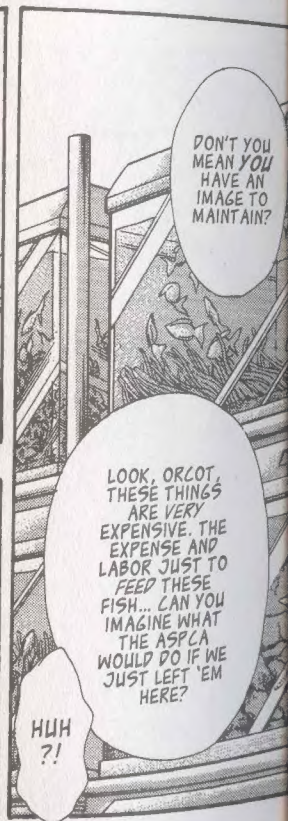
OCCUPATION:
SYSTEMS
ENGINEER FOR
A MOBILE
TELEPHONE
COMPANY.

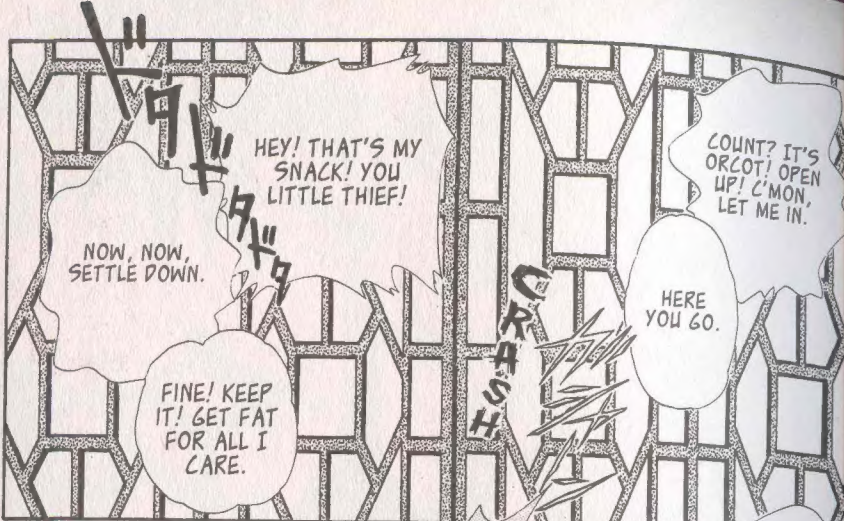
JODY ONCE
TOLD ME THAT
ON THE DAY
I WAS BORN...

A WARM, GENTLE
RAIN BEGAN TO
POUR, LIKE TEARS
FROM HEAVEN.

CAUSE OF
DEATH:
MULTIPLE
GUNSHOT
WOUNDS TO
THE CHEST
AND HEAD.

THE M.E.
SAYS THE
BODY'S
BEEN HERE
AT LEAST A
WEEK...





HEY! THAT'S MY
SNACK! YOU
LITTLE THIEF!

NOW, NOW,
SETTLE DOWN.

FINE! KEEP
IT! GET FAT
FOR ALL I
CARE.

COUNT? IT'S
ORCOT! OPEN
UP! C'MON,
LET ME IN.

HERE
YOU GO.

THAT'S ENOUGH!
IT'S TIME TO
CLEAN UP. IF
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO HELP,
THEN AT LEAST
GET OUT OF THE
WAY.

SOUNDS
LIKE QUITE
A CROWD. A
REGULAR
PARTY.

WHY
WASN'T
I
INVITED
?

COUNT,
WHERE
SHOULD I
PUT THIS
VASE?

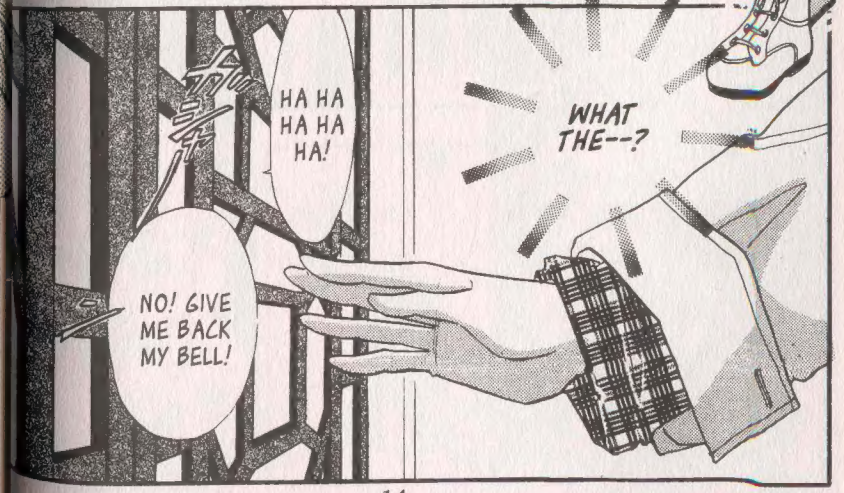
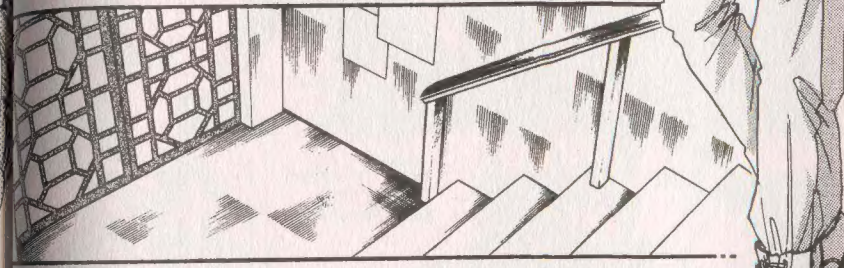
SOUNDS
LIKE THE
COUNT HAS
COMPANY.



FACT. IF THAT GUY
OWNED DOGS. I
WET WE'D HAVE A
MESS TO QUESTION.
WHO WOULD HAVE
TAKEN ITS HEAD OFF
AND ATTRACTED
ATTENTION TO THE
CRIME SCENE.

WHY DO PEOPLE EVEN
KEEP FISH? THEY'RE
NOT MUCH OF A PET.
GIVE ME A GOOD DOG
ANY DAY...

DAMN, I
REALLY AM
STUCK IN
A STUPID
MOVIE.



HA HA
HA HA
HA!

WHAT
THE---

NO! GIVE
ME BACK
MY BELL!

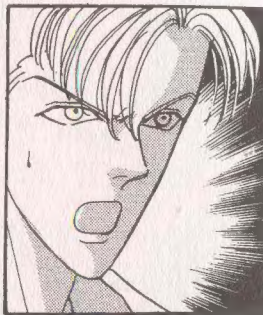
SHIT... I DON'T GET
IT. WHY HIM? THERE
MUST BE HUNDREDS
OF PET SHOPS WE
COULD HIT UP FOR
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS.



UH, OFFICER...

WHERE'D YOU HIDE THEM?
WERE THERE DRUGS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M NOT SURE
WHAT YOU MEAN,
DETECTIVE. WE'RE
THE ONLY TWO
PEOPLE HERE.



CUT IT OUT,
COUNT! I
HEARD ALL
KINDS OF
VOICES FROM
OUTSIDE!



BAA-
AA-A
A!!

BOTH OF
YOU, CALM
DOWN!
DETECTIVE

COUNT, COME
GET THIS
FREAKY THING
BEFORE I TURN
IT INTO A RUG!



U
WA
AA!!



HEY, HE
STARTED
IT!

THE CHIEF
WANTED ME
TO GIVE THIS
TO YOU.

OOOH! A
PRESENT!

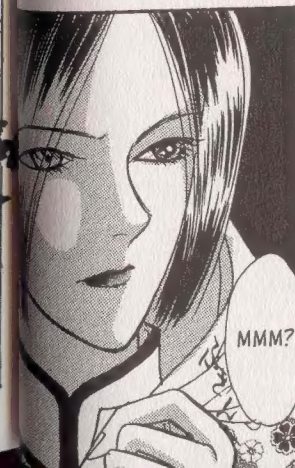


MOTHER-
FUCKER!!
AGAIN
WITH THE
GODDAMN
GOAT!



AH,
DETECTIVE,
WHAT A
PLEASANT
SURPRISE!

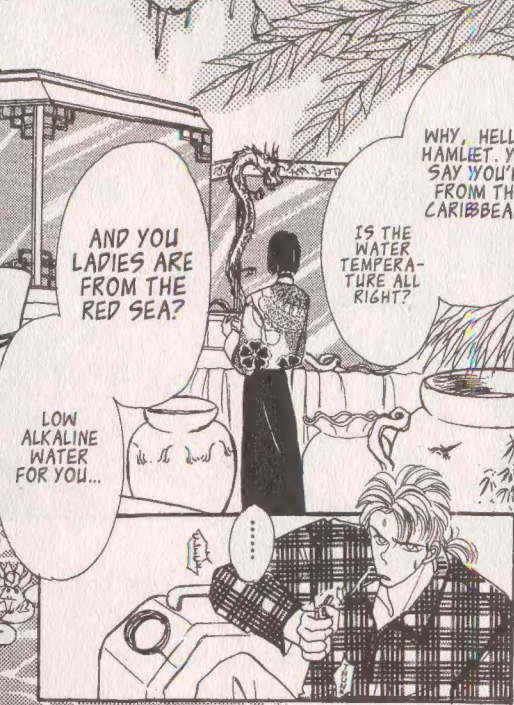
WHAT
THE
HELL?!



MMM?



HUH?! WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ALL YOUR
GUESTS?



AND YOU LADIES ARE FROM THE RED SEA?

WHY, HELLO, HAMLET. YOU SAY YOU'RE FROM THE CARIBBEAN?

IS THE WATER TEMPERATURE ALL RIGHT?

LOW ALKALINE WATER FOR YOU...



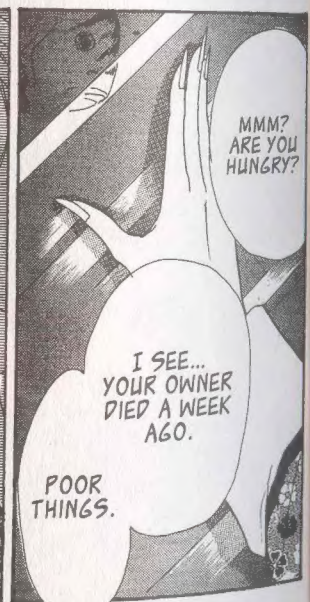
NOW THEN, YOU'LL ALL BE FINE. I KNOW IT'S...

AN ADJUSTMENT.



YOU DON'T SAY! HE WAS AN ENGINEER? HE SOUNDS LIKE A VERY INTELLIGENT MAN.

WITH A JOB LIKE THAT, I'M SURE HE COULD AFFORD TO TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOU.



MMM? ARE YOU HUNGRY?

I SEE... YOUR OWNER DIED A WEEK AGO.

POOR THINGS.

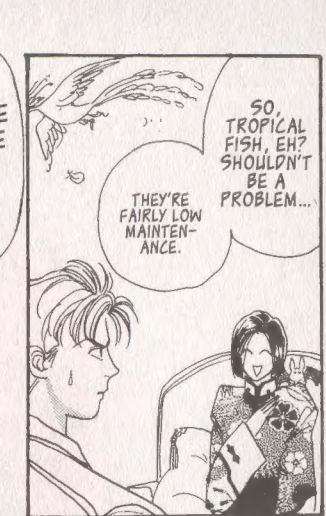


WHERE ARE THE LITTLE FISHIES NOW?!

THEY'RE WHAT ?!!

RIGHT OUTSIDE.

THEY'RE IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS INSIDE MY CAR.



SO, TROPICAL FISH, EH? SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...

THEY'RE FAIRLY LOW MAINTENANCE.



W-WE HAD TO GET THEM OUT OF THE TANKS.

GET THEM TO THE COMMON ROOM, QUICKLY!

O-O-KAY...

UNLIKE YOU, OFFICER ORCOT, TROPICAL FISH ARE DELICATE CREATURES!!

THEIR WATER HAS TO BE KEPT AT A VERY SPECIFIC TEMPERATURE! EVEN THE SLIGHTEST DEVIATION COULD KILL THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM!!



THAT'S IT. TH-THAT'S ALL OF THEM.





AND WHY,
MY DEAR
DETECTIVE,
IS THAT A
BAD THING?

MAN, IS THERE
ANYTHING IN THIS
PLACE THAT ISN'T
ANCIENT? I'VE BEEN
STOPPING BY FOR
WHAT, THE LAST
SEVERAL MONTHS?
IN ALL THAT TIME, I
HAVEN'T SEEN SO
MUCH AS A DIGITAL
CLOCK OR TV SET IN
THIS PUMP.

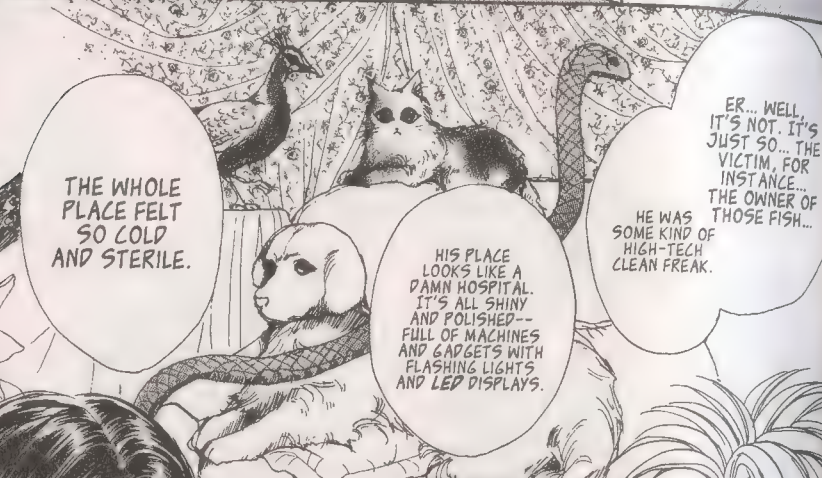


YOU'RE DRIVING
ME NUTS,
BABBLING TO
YOURSELF LIKE
THAT!

SHUT
UP!!

BUT I
GUESS I
SHOULD
EXPECT AS
MUCH FROM
OUR DEAR
DETECTIVE.

HOW
DISRES-
PECTFUL.



THE WHOLE
PLACE FELT
SO COLD
AND STERILE.

HIS PLACE
LOOKS LIKE A
DAMN HOSPITAL.
IT'S ALL SHINY
AND POLISHED--
FULL OF MACHINES
AND GADGETS WITH
FLASHING LIGHTS
AND LED DISPLAYS.

ER... WELL,
IT'S NOT. IT'S
JUST SO... THE
VICTIM, FOR
INSTANCE...
THE OWNER OF
THOSE FISH...

HE WAS
SOME KIND OF
HIGH-TECH
CLEAN FREAK.

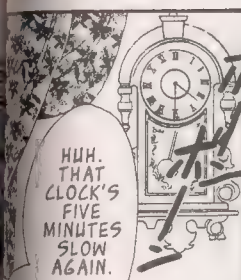
COME ON,
IT'S TIME
FOR TEA.



THANK
YOU.

BUT THIS
PLACE...

IT WAS
JUST SO...
LIFELESS.



HUH.
THAT
CLOCK'S
FIVE
MINUTES
SLOW
AGAIN.

I MIGHT
HAVE TO
REPLACE
IT.





NOT
SURPRISING,
CONSIDERING
HOW LOUD YOU
WERE,
PERCIVAL.

WELL
I THINK
HE'S KINDA
CUTE.
HEE HEE!

HMPH. I HATE
THAT MAN.
I LONG TO
DEVOUR HIM.

EASY NOW,
TETSU. I DO
BELIEVE HE NEEDS
OUR HELP. AND
THE DEBT OF A
POLICE OFFICER
CAN BE A
VALUABLE THING
INDEED.



A
PLEASURE,
AS
ALWAYS.
PLEASE
COME
AGAIN.

MMM
...

DID THAT
MAN-THING
HEAR US
PLAYING?

LET'S
BRING OUR
GAL IN!

I'LL BET. SO IF SHE
WAS MCPOWELL'S
GIRLFRIEND, WHERE'S
SHE BEEN ALL WEEK?
YOU'D THINK AFTER A
WEEK OF NO PHONE
CALLS SHE WOULD
HAVE SHOWN UP, IF
FOR NO OTHER
REASON THAN TO TELL
THE GUY OFF.

WELL, SHE
HASN'T. SO
WHAT DOES
THAT TELL YOU?

AS IN FLEEING
THE SCENE.
I'M THINKING
OUR MYSTERY
GIRL HAD A
LITTLE FIGHT
WITH MR.
MCPOWELL.
ONE THAT
ENDED IN
GUNSHOTS.

WHO
KNOWS?
MAYBE
SHE'S
BEEN
OUT OF
TOWN.

HOLD ON A
SECOND, ORCOT.
THAT'S QUITE A
LEAP. HOW DO YOU
KNOW SHE'S
INVOLVED?

WE DON'T. BUT
RIGHT NOW SHE'S
THE ONLY LEAD
WE'VE GOT.

WHEN WE SEARCHED
MCPOWELL'S
BEDROOM, WE
FOUND A DRESS AND
HOME MAKE-UP
THAT WE BELIEVE
BELONG TO THIS
WOMAN.

IT SEEMS
THAT MR.
MCPOWELL,
THE VICTIM,
HAD A
GIRLFRIEND.

THIS PICTURE WAS
TAKEN BY SECURITY
CAMERAS, JUST
ABOUT A WEEK AGO.

Hmm... Not bad.
How'd Einstein
score a better like
than?

NO ONE KNOWS HER
NAME, BUT WE DO
KNOW THAT UNLIKE
MCPOWELL SHE WAS
CHEERFUL AND
OUTGOING. SHE
MADE QUITE AN
IMPRESSION ON
THE NEIGHBORS.

RESIDENTS
OF NEARBY
APARTMENTS HAVE
WITNESSED OUR
MYSTERY GIRL
ENTERING
MCPOWELL'S
APARTMENT ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS.

MY GUESS
IS SHE'S A
HOOKER.

YOU SURE SHE'S HIS
GIRLFRIEND? THE
GUY SEEMS SO
ANTISOCIAL. SO FAR
THE ONLY FRIENDS
WE'VE FOUND ARE
HIS FISH.

SHIT,
ORCOT!
HAVE SOME
CLASS!





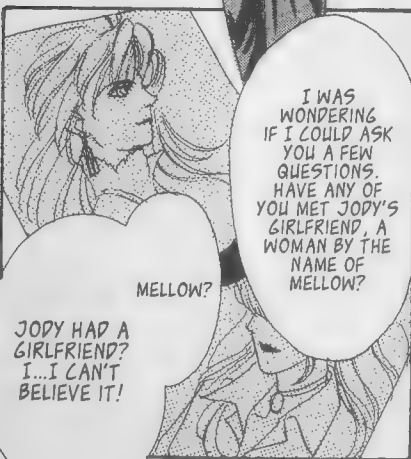
THESE THINGS
HAPPEN. YOU
SHOULD KNOW
THAT.

NO, DEAR.
YOU CAN'T
BLAME
YOURSELF.

WE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET
HIM LIVE ALL
ALONE LIKE
THIS.

AND
NATHAN,
AND DON'T
FORGET
YOUR
COUSIN
RUDY.

YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO UNCLE
PAUL.



I WAS
WONDERING
IF I COULD ASK
YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS.
HAVE ANY OF
YOU MET JODY'S
GIRLFRIEND, A
WOMAN BY THE
NAME OF
MELLOW?

MELLOW?

JODY HAD A
GIRLFRIEND?
I...I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



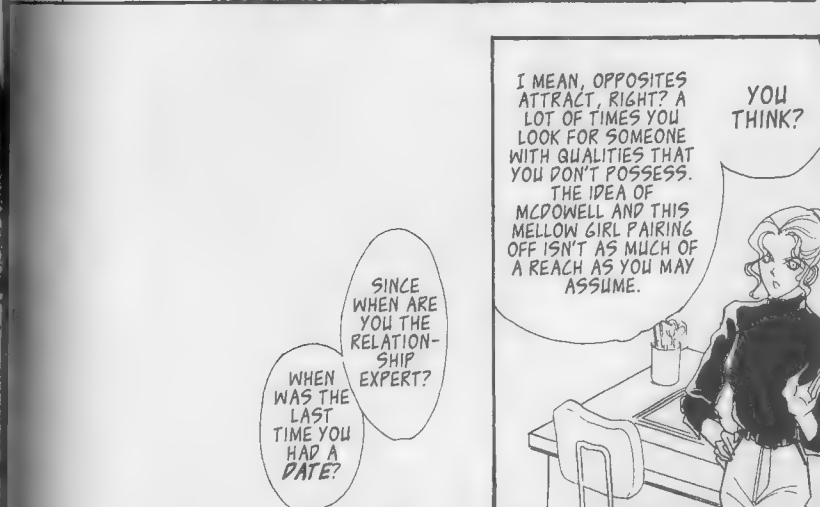
HELLO, I'M
DETECTIVE
LEON ORCOT.
I'M
INVESTIGATING
THIS CASE.



AND THEN YOU
HAVE THIS
MYSTERY WOMAN,
MELLOW. A PARTY
GIRL WHO DRINKS
LIKE A FISH AND
KNOWS HOW TO
HAVE A GOOD
TIME.

SO YOU
HAVE
MCPOWELL,
AN
INTROVERT. PEOPLE
DIDN'T LIKE
HIM AND
VICE-
VERSA.
TOTAL CLEAN
FREAK, CRAZY
ABOUT
COMPUTERS,
AND NUTS
ABOUT
TROPICAL
FISH.

NOT
EXACTLY A
MATCH MADE
IN HEAVEN.



I MEAN, OPPOSITES
ATTRACT, RIGHT? A
LOT OF TIMES YOU
LOOK FOR SOMEONE
WITH QUALITIES THAT
YOU DON'T POSSESS.
THE IDEA OF
MCPOWELL AND THIS
MELLOW GIRL PAIRING
OFF ISN'T AS MUCH OF
A REACH AS YOU MAY
ASSUME.

YOU
THINK?

SINCE
WHEN ARE
YOU THE
RELATION-
SHIP
EXPERT?

WHEN
WAS THE
LAST
TIME YOU
HAD A
DATE?



JOPY,
IS THAT
YOU...?

WHY
CAN'T
I SEE
YOU?

JOPY...
IT'S SO
DARK
AND
COLD...

JOPY
?



ONE
OF HIS
FISH?

JOPY NAMED
ONE OF HIS
FISH
MELLOW!



IF MEMORY
SERVES, MELLOW
WAS ONE OF THE
FISH HE BRED.
RAISED HER FROM
AN EGG.

THOSE THINGS
WERE ALL HE EVER
TALKED ABOUT
WITH ME.



HE NAMED A FISH AFTER
HIS GIRLFRIEND?!

CHRIST... NO WONDER SHE
LEFT HIM!



MELLOW... THAT
NAME SOUNDS
REALLY FAMILIAR.

AH, I
KNOW!!



YOU WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
SHE WAS
HIS
GIRLFRIEND,
THE WAY HE
WENT ON
AND ON
ABOUT HER.

HE WAS
VERY
PROUD OF
HER. HE
TREATED
THAT FISH
LIKE IT
WAS HIS
OWN
FLESH
AND
BLOOD.

...CO-
WORKERS
THAT TEASE
YOU AND
LAUGH AT
YOU...

AND A
RUDE,
DISGUSTING
BOSS.

WHY
DON'T I
HAVE
ANY
PEOPLE
LIKE
THAT?

YOU HAVE A
DEMANDING
FATHER, A
MOTHER
PROWNING IN
HER OWN
DEPRESSION...

A STUCK-
UP OLDER
BROTHER...

JOPY
!!

HOW'S
THE
WATER
TEMPER-
ATURE?

IT'S
VERY
NICE.

THE CORAL
REEF LOOKS
PRETTY WORN.
WOULD YOU LIKE
A NEW ONE?

YES,
BUT...

I'M SORRY
THINGS HAVE
BEEN SO
STRANGE THE
PAST FEW DAYS.
I BROUGHT YOU
BREAKFAST.

BUT?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

MELLOW
...

OH,
MELLOW...

YOU HAVE
THEM...I
WANT THEM
TOO!

FRIENDS
?!
FRIENDS!
YES,
I WANT
FRIENDS!!

IT MEANS
"FRIENDS."

MELLOW, DO
YOU WANT
COMPANIONS
?

COMPANIONS?

WHY
DON'T I
HAVE
ANYONE?

IT'S
ALSO AN
ORGAN.

MY HEART...
IT...IT'S THE
CORE OF A
PERSON'S
EMOTIONS...

IT'S DEEP
WITHIN A
PERSON'S
CHEST. IT
PUMPS
BLOOD
THROUGHOUT
THEIR BODY.

WHERE
IS
YOUR
"HOT"?

YES...

MY HEART
HURTS A
LITTLE.

HOT?

IT...
IT'S
RAINING
FROM
YOUR
EYE...

?!

JODY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

W-
WHY...?

THESE ARE...
"TEARS."

TEARS?

HEY,
JODY,
DO I HAVE
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?!

WHERE'S
MY
HEART?

I DON'T KNOW.
LET'S SEE,
WHERE WOULD
MELLOW'S
HEART BE?

JODY!!

I ALWAYS
FEEL BETTER
WHEN YOU
SMILE!!

YOU'RE
SMILING
!!

TEARS COME
OUT OF
PEOPLE'S EYES
WHEN THEY'RE
SAD OR
UPSET.

OH...

JODY,
ARE YOU
HURT?



AS LONG AS
YOU'RE HERE,
I HAVE ALL
I NEED.

YOU'RE MY
WHOLE WORLD.



YOU
HAVE
ME.

MELLOW
...

YOU'RE MY
ONLY FRIEND,
MELLOW.

YOU DON'T EVER
NEED TO ASK FOR
FRIENDS AGAIN,
YOU ALREADY
HAVE THEM.



I DON'T NEED
A PAPA OR
A MAMA OR
ANYONE ELSE.

OKAY,
JOPY.





MELLOW?!

HOW
PECULIAR.

THE OTHERS
SEEM CONVINCED
THAT A FISH BY
THE NAME OF
MELLOW WAS
LEFT BEHIND IN
JODY'S ROOM.

HEY,
WAIT
JUST A
SECOND!!

WHERE DID
YOU HEAR
THAT NAME?!



WHERE?

MELLOW
WAS HIS
FAVORITE.

THE OTHER
FISH CLAIM
THAT SHE
LIVED IN A
SPECIAL TANK,
SEPARATE
FROM ALL THE
OTHERS.

IN MY PET
SHOP, OF
COURSE.
SHE'S ALL
THE OTHER
FISH TALK
ABOUT.



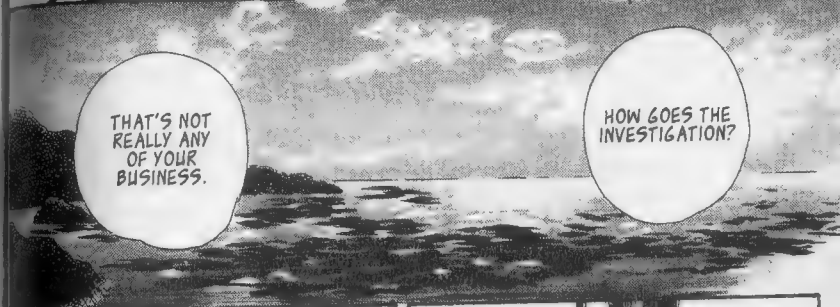
HMPH.



TOMORROW
AFTERNOON,
IT'LL BE
RAINING.

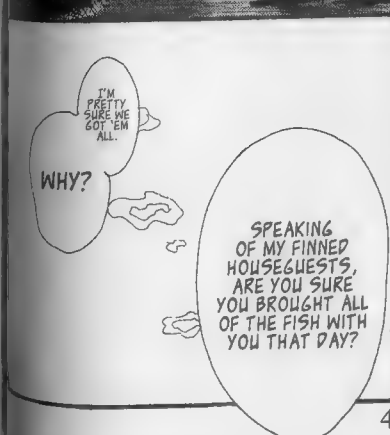


"WHAT'S A
GIRL LIKE YOU
DOING IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?"
ISN'T THAT
THE LINE?



THAT'S NOT
REALLY ANY
OF YOUR
BUSINESS.

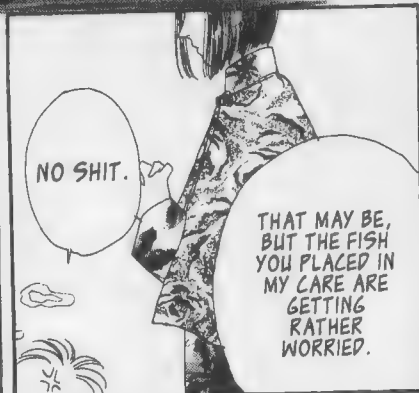
HOW GOES THE
INVESTIGATION?



WHY?

I'M
PRETTY
SURE I
GOT 'EM
ALL.

SPEAKING
OF MY FINNED
HOUSEGUESTS,
ARE YOU SURE
YOU BROUGHT ALL
OF THE FISH WITH
YOU THAT DAY?



NO SHIT.

THAT MAY BE,
BUT THE FISH
YOU PLACED IN
MY CARE ARE
GETTING
RATHER
WORRIED.



THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT THEM TO ME, WASN'T IT?

YOU KNEW THE FISH WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A CLUE.

BUT YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT, DON'T YOU?



DAMMIT, D! STOP TRYING TO FUCK WITH MY HEAD!!



THEY'VE SUGGESTED THAT MELLOW MAY HAVE SEEN WHO KILLED MR. MCDOWELL.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO BELIEVE OR DISBELIEVE. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME...

I'M NOT.

GOD-DAMMIT!

"YOUR HONOR, I CALL TO THE STAND MR. GILLS."

YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THE ONLY WITNESS TO THE MURDER WAS A FISH? YEAH, THAT'LL HOLD UP IN COURT.



THE CHIEF'S GONNA CHEW ME A NEW ONE. I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN THE MINUTE WE GOT YOU INVOLVED!

COUNT,
THAT'S
WHAT WE A
CALL A
COMPUTER.

PERHAPS
NOT.

IF YOU SHOPPED
SOMEWHERE BESIDES
"ANTIQUES 'R US"
YOU WOULD KNOW
THAT. LOOKS LIKE IT
GOT NAILED IN THE
SHOOTING.

SURE.

WHAT-
EVER.

PLEASE
TURN IT
ON...

EVEN IF THE
MONITOR'S
BROKEN, THE
COMPUTER
SHOULD BE
FINE,
CORRECT?

THE
PICTURE'S
HAZY, BUT
THAT
MIGHT BE
DELIBERATE.

THERE,
YOU SEE?
IT'S
BUSTED.

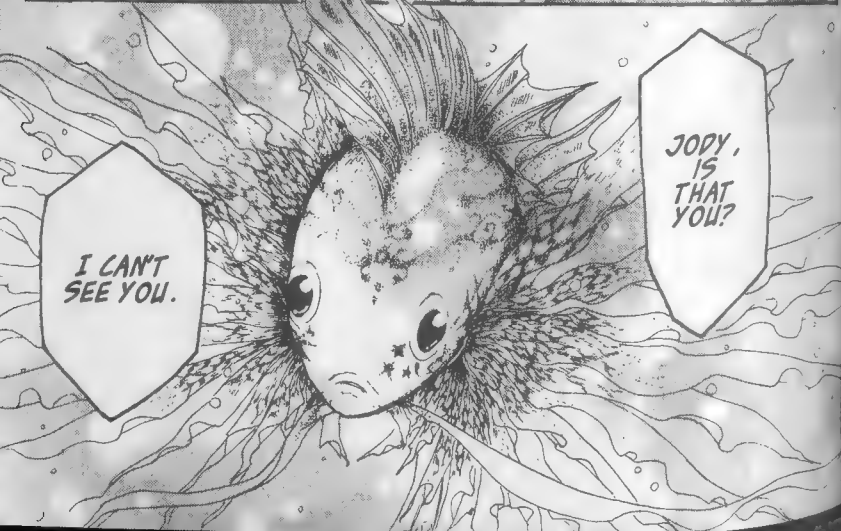
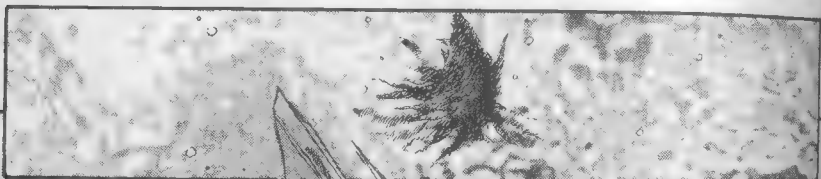
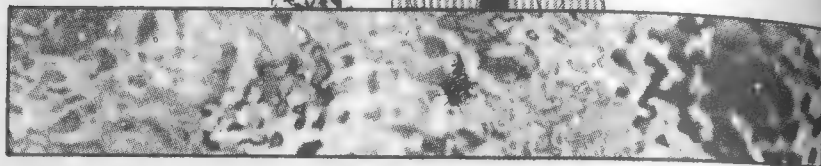
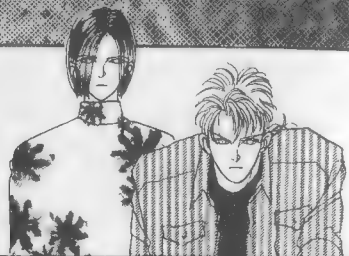
THE
MONITOR'S
SHOT. NO
FUN
INTENDED.

SO THIS
IS IT...
JODY'S
ROOM.

THIS IS
EXACTLY
HOW THE
CRIME SCENE
WAS FOUND.
MINUS THE
CORPSE AND
THE FISH, OF
COURSE.

SEE? ALL THE
TANKS ARE
EMPTY. I TOLD
YOU I GOT ALL
THE FISH.

MCDOWELL
PROBABLY
PUSHED LITTLE
MELLOW WHEN
THINGS TURNED
SOUR WITH THE
BROAD.



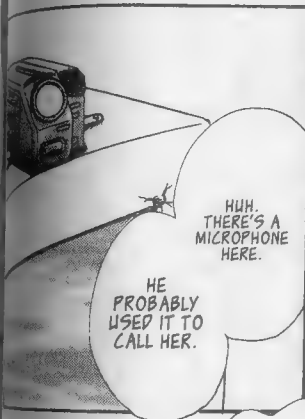
I CAN'T
SEE YOU.

JOPY,
IS
THAT
YOU?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT,
COUNT?

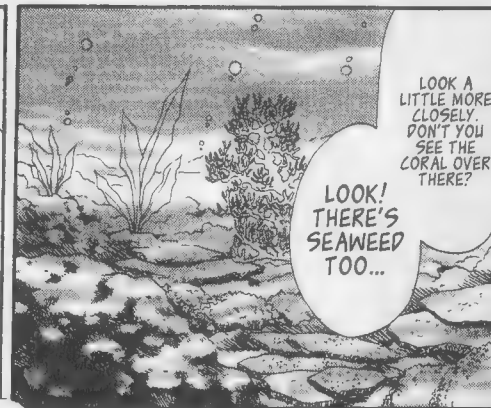
IT LOOKS
ALMOST
LIKE...
WATER.

LIKE THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
OCEAN.



HUH.
THERE'S A
MICROPHONE
HERE.

HE
PROBABLY
USED IT TO
CALL HER.



LOOK A
LITTLE MORE
CLOSELY.
DON'T YOU
SEE THE
CORAL OVER
THERE?

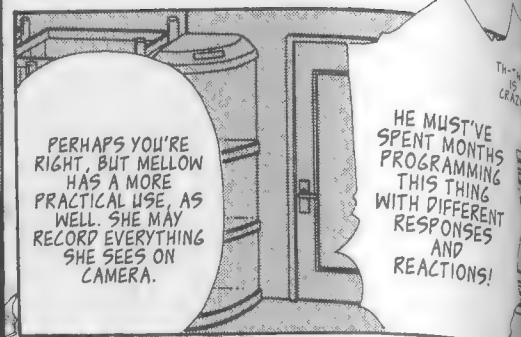
LOOK!
THERE'S
SEAWEED
TOO...

WHAT?
CALL WHO?

MELLOW.



YOU
THINK?



PERHAPS YOU'RE
RIGHT, BUT MELLOW
HAS A MORE
PRACTICAL USE, AS
WELL. SHE MAY
RECORD EVERYTHING
SHE SEES ON
CAMERA.

HE MUST'VE
SPENT MONTHS
PROGRAMMING
THIS THING
WITH DIFFERENT
RESPONSES
AND
REACTIONS!



ON HIS
CHEEK?

AND
THERE WAS
A BIG SCAR
ON THE
BOTTOM OF
HIS LEFT
CHEEK.

THE
BARTENDER
!!

WHY WAS HE
HERE? DID HE
SAY ANYTHING?

HIS HAIR
WAS DARK
BLACK, HE
HAD BLUE
EYES... HE
WAS A
LITTLE
CHUBBY...

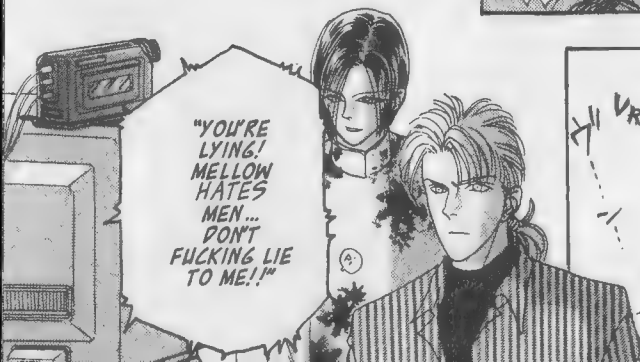


TWO
WEEKS
AGO...

YES!

DID JODY
HAVE
ANYONE
OVER AT
THE
HOUSE?

WHAT
DID HE
LOOK
LIKE?!

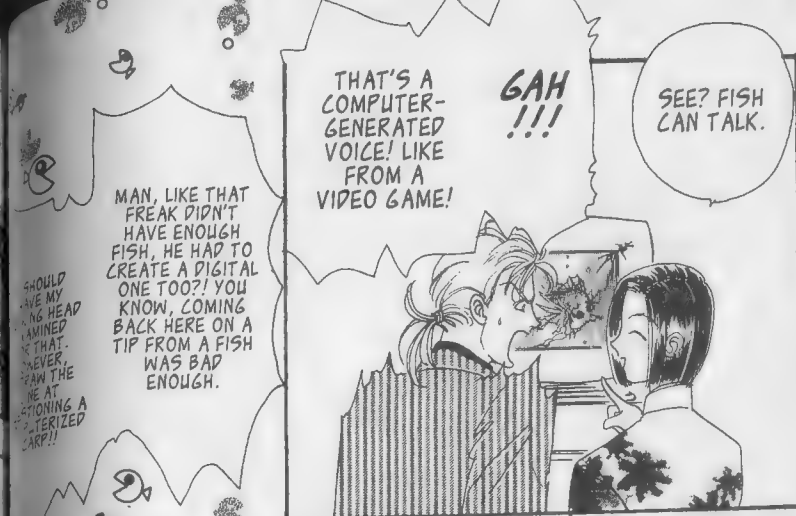


"YOU'RE
LYING!
MELLOW
HATES
MEN...
DON'T
FUCKING LIE
TO ME!"



HMM
...

VREE
EEEE
EEEE
EEEE
EEEE



THAT'S A
COMPUTER-
GENERATED
VOICE! LIKE
FROM A
VIDEO GAME!

GAH
!!!

SEE? FISH
CAN TALK.



MELLOW,
HOW'S
THE
WATER
TEMPERATURE?

IT'S A
LITTLE
COLD.

LET'S SEE
WHAT WE
CAN DO
WITH THIS.

EH?!
WHAT ARE
YOU--

NOW,
OFFICER,
HOW CAN WE
REFUSE AN
INVITATION
LIKE THAT?

HEY,
COME
ON IN.



HELLO,
MELLOW. I'M
COUNT P.
THIS IS
DETECTIVE
ORCOT.

UH...HI?

HELLO!

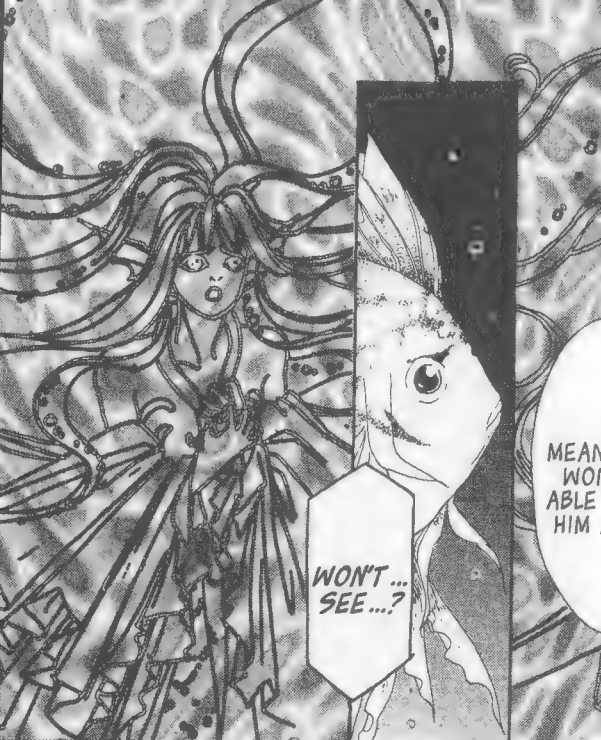
THAT THING MUST
HAVE IMAGE
RECOGNITION
CAPABILITIES! IT SEES
US ON CAMERA,
COUNT! SHE'S LOOKING
AT US RIGHT NOW!

HEY, DOES MY HAIR LOOK
ALRIGHT?

OH,
SHIT!

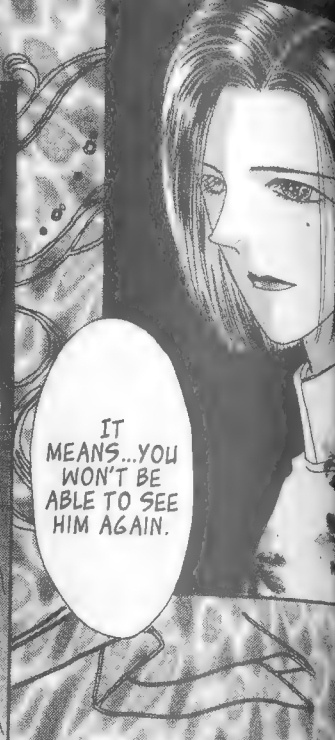
YOU'RE
NOT
JODY!

WHO
ARE
YOU
?



WON'T
SEE...?

IT
MEANS...YOU
WON'T BE
ABLE TO SEE
HIM AGAIN.



HE...
WAS...
MY...
ONLY...
FRIEND
...

BUT...

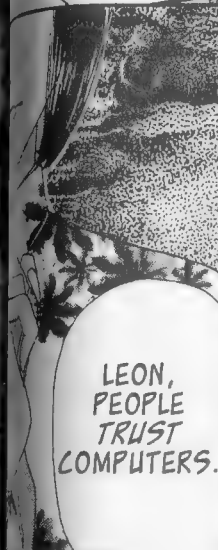
WHY
?

MELLOW
...

HE...
PRO...
MISED
...



THEN I
HEARD
THREE
LOUD
SOUNDS.
LOUD LIKE
THUNDER.

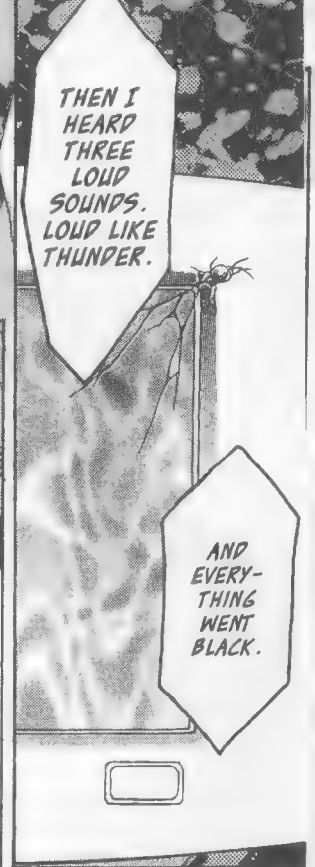


LEON,
PEOPLE
TRUST
COMPUTERS.

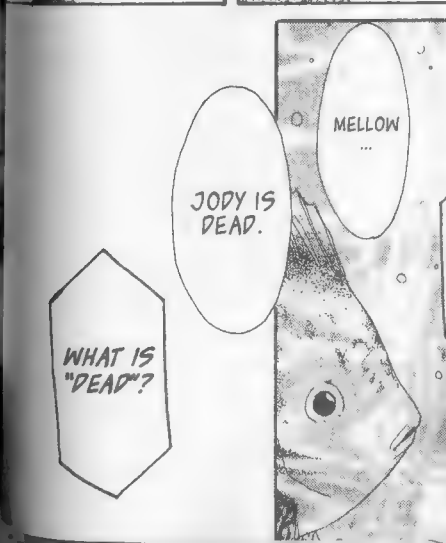


SHIT...

I CAN'T
USE THIS
AS
EVIDENCE.



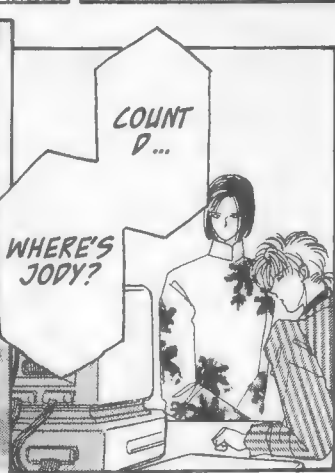
AND
EVERY-
THING
WENT
BLACK.



JODY IS
DEAD.

MELLOW
...

WHAT IS
"DEAD"?



COUNT
D...

WHERE'S
JODY?

MELOW WAS IN THE ROOM THE ENTIRE TIME. SHE SAW AND RECORDED THE WHOLE THING! OUR TECH GUYS ARE WORKING ON RECOVERING THE DATA, BUT THEY'RE PRETTY SURE THEY'LL GET SOMETHING CONCRETE.

I HAVE TO SAY, THAT WAS ONE OF THE EASIEST INTERROGATIONS I'VE EVER DONE!

SO THE CASE IS AS YOU SAY, "WRAPPED"?

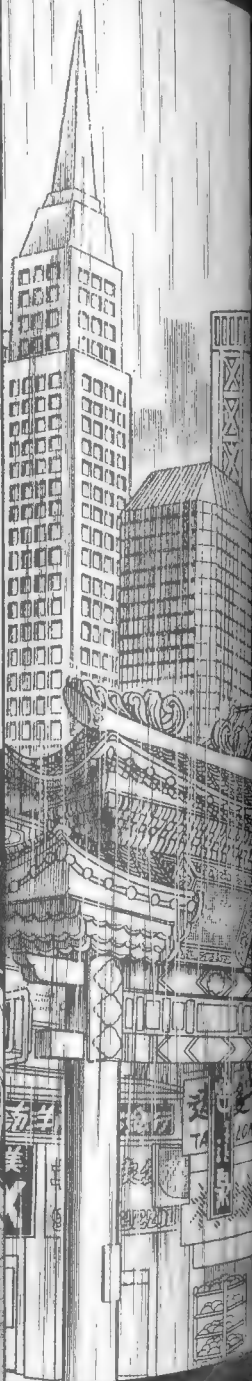
WELL, NOT QUITE.

THE HUMAN MELOW'S STILL MISSING.

YOU KNOW, OFFICER...

THE FISH THAT JODY OWNED ALL SHARE ONE SPECIAL TRAIT.

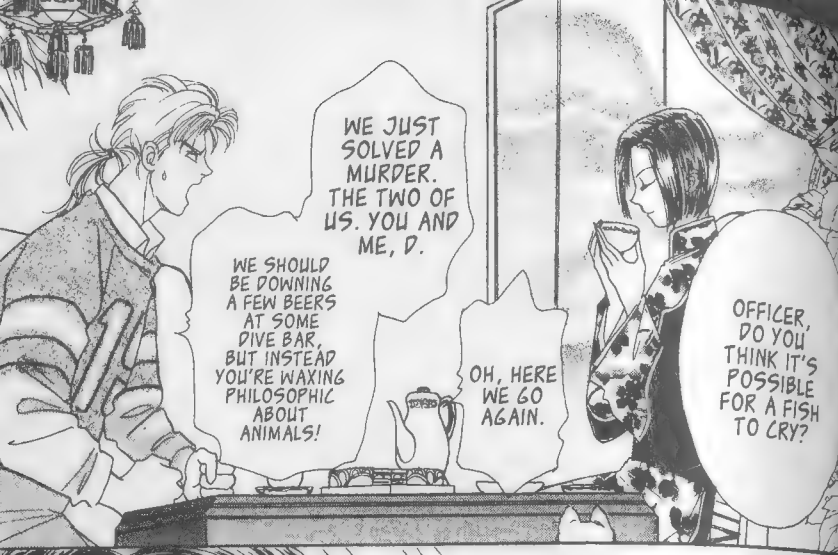
WHAT'S THAT?



...THERE'S
...NO...

...ME...

IF
THERE'S
NO...
JOPY...

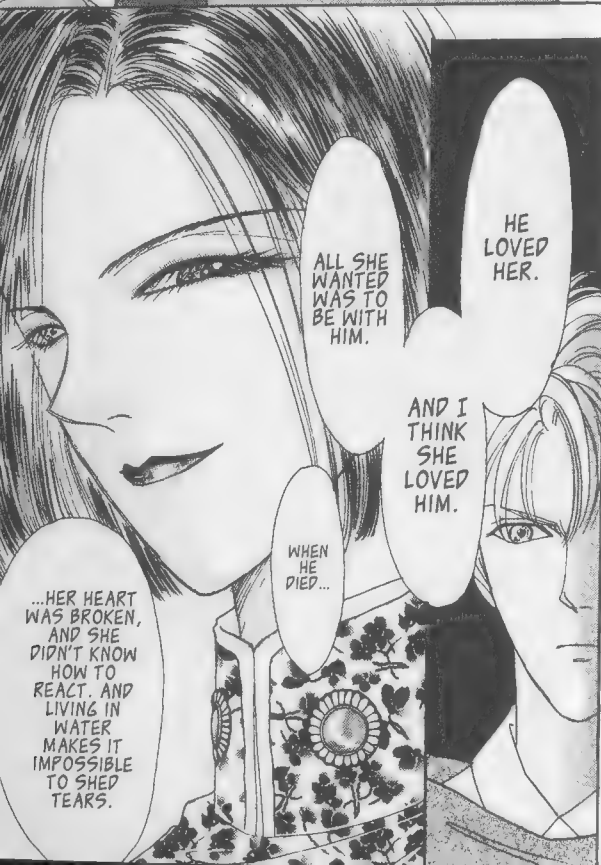


WE JUST SOLVED A MURDER. THE TWO OF US. YOU AND ME, D.

WE SHOULD BE DOWNING A FEW BEERS AT SOME DIVE BAR, BUT INSTEAD YOU'RE WAXING PHILOSOPHIC ABOUT ANIMALS!

OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN.

OFFICER, DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR A FISH TO CRY?



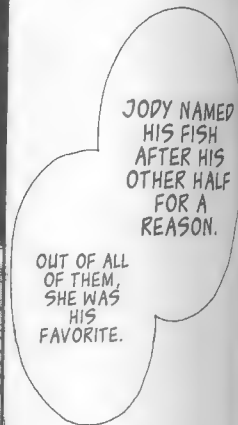
ALL SHE WANTED WAS TO BE WITH HIM.

HE LOVED HER.

AND I THINK SHE LOVED HIM.

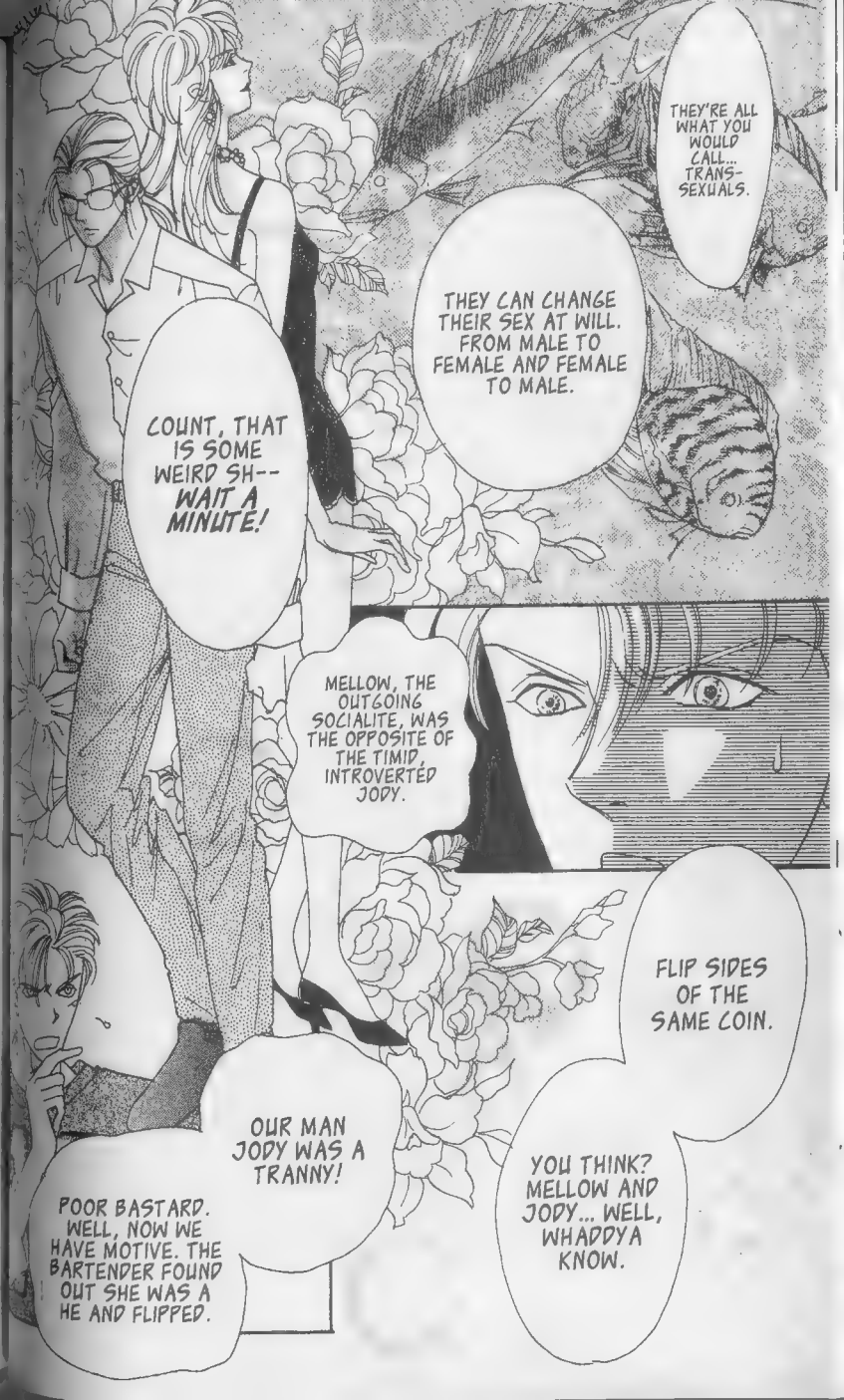
WHEN HE DIED...

...HER HEART WAS BROKEN, AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REACT. AND LIVING IN WATER MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SHED TEARS.



JODY NAMED HIS FISH AFTER HIS OTHER HALF FOR A REASON.

OUT OF ALL OF THEM, SHE WAS HIS FAVORITE.



THEY'RE ALL WHAT YOU WOULD CALL... TRANS-SEXUALS.

THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR SEX AT WILL. FROM MALE TO FEMALE AND FEMALE TO MALE.

COUNT, THAT IS SOME WEIRD SH--
WAIT A MINUTE!

MELLOW, THE OUTGOING SOCIALITE, WAS THE OPPOSITE OF THE TIMID, INTROVERTED JODY.

FLIP SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

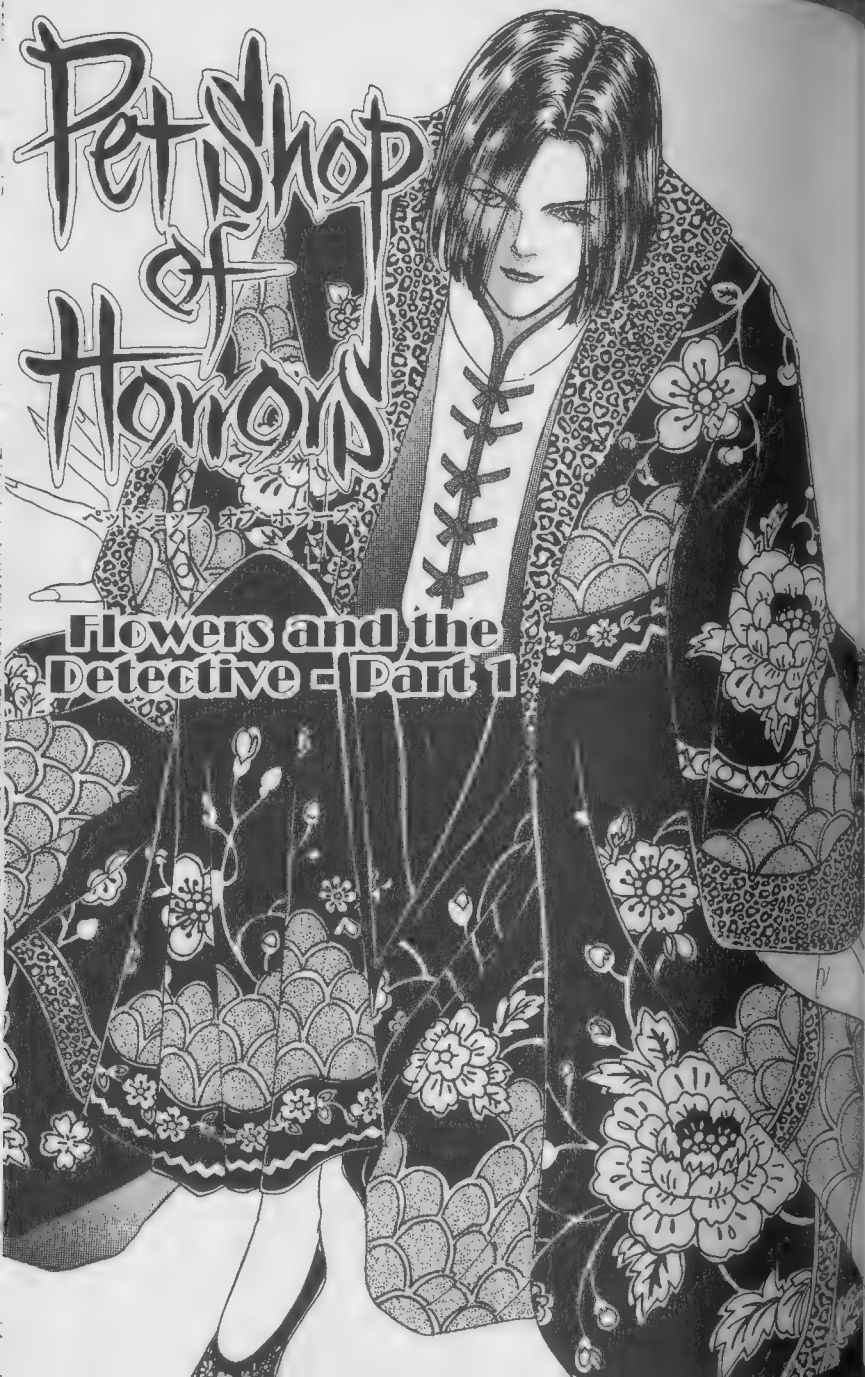
OUR MAN JODY WAS A TRANNY!

POOR BASTARD. WELL, NOW WE HAVE MOTIVE. THE BARTENDER FOUND OUT SHE WAS A HE AND FLIPPED.

YOU THINK? MELLOW AND JODY... WELL, WHADDYA KNOW.

Pet Shop of Horrors

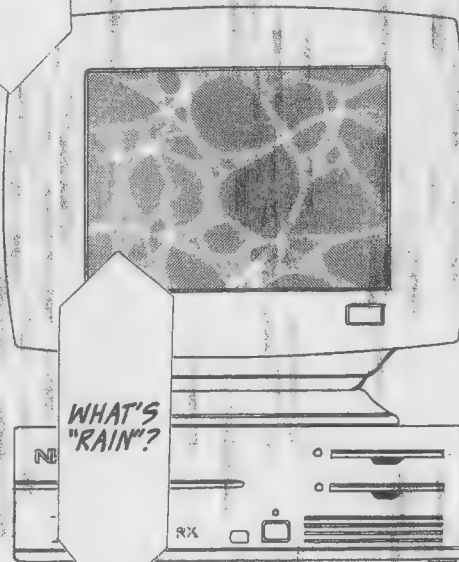
Flowers and the Detective - Part 1



RAIN...
?!

IT LOOKS
LIKE WE MAY
BE IN FOR
SOME RAIN.

HEY,
MELLOW.



WHAT'S
"RAIN"?



WELL, I WOULDN'T DARE TRUST YOU WITH AN ACTUAL ANIMAL.

JUST GIVE IT SOME WATER EVERY 2 OR 3 DAYS.

YOU'RE GIVING ME FLOWERS ?!

MMM?

I'M SORRY, LEON.

MAYBE THIS WILL BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY.

THE ORIGINAL DESIGNER OF THE CATS AND THE DOGS IN THE MANGA IS SHIRO GOTO. THE CHARACTERS ARE NOT TO BE MISTAKEN FOR ANYONE IN REALITY.



I AM NOT PUTTING THAT IN MY APARTMENT.

NOW, NOW, DETECTIVE, DON'T BE SO HASTY.

I'M SURE AFTER A FEW DAYS YOU'LL GROW TO ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT.

AH, BY THE WAY, HER NAME IS GATTOLOTTO.

TREAT HER NICELY.



...BUT I'D RATHER GO OUT WITH A THIRD CLASS BUSINESSMAN THAN A THIRD RATE DETECTIVE.

バンバン



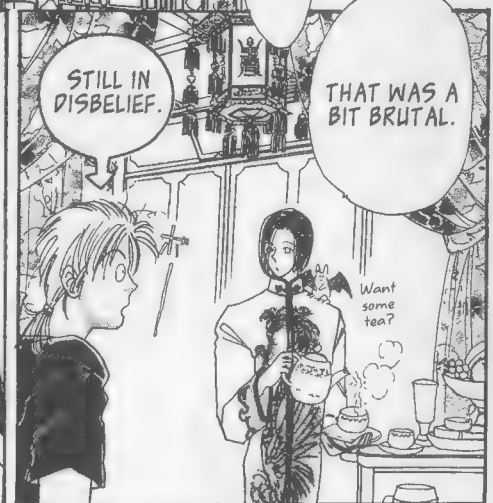
SORRY, LEON...



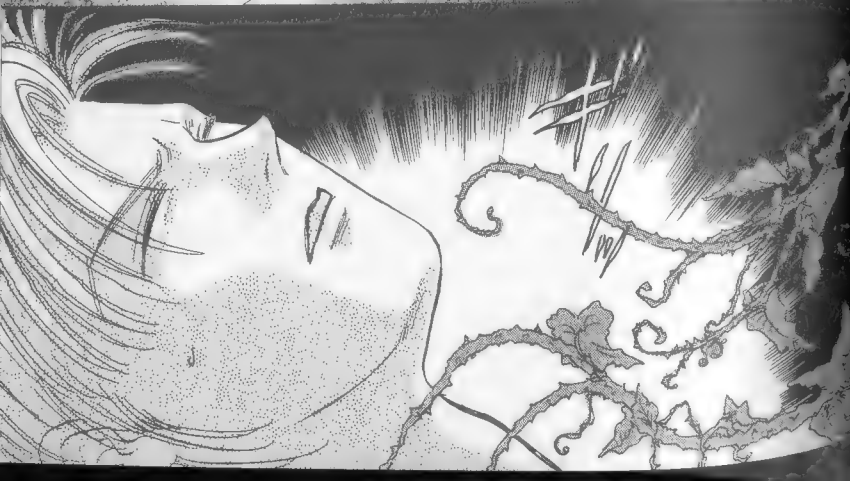
STILL IN DISBELIEF.

OUCH.

THAT WAS A BIT BRUTAL.



Want some tea?

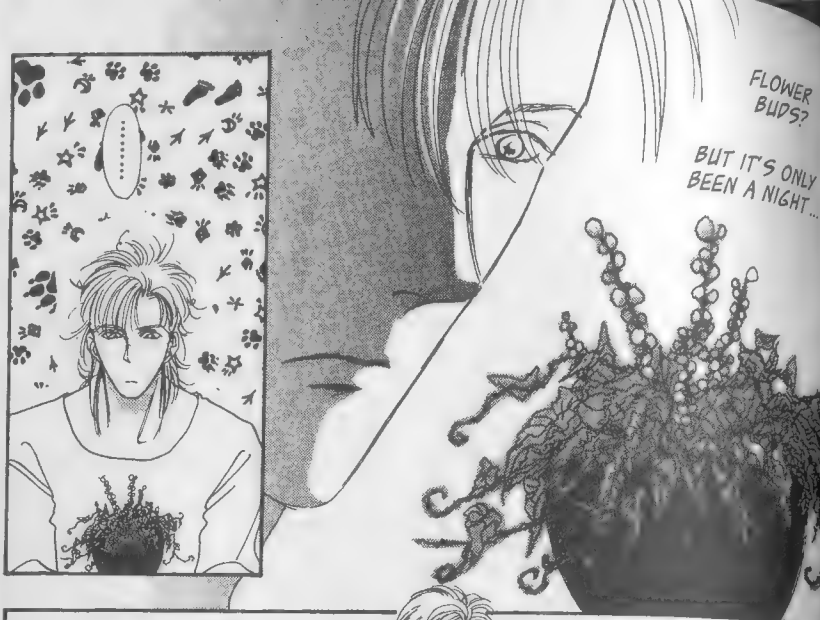




WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?

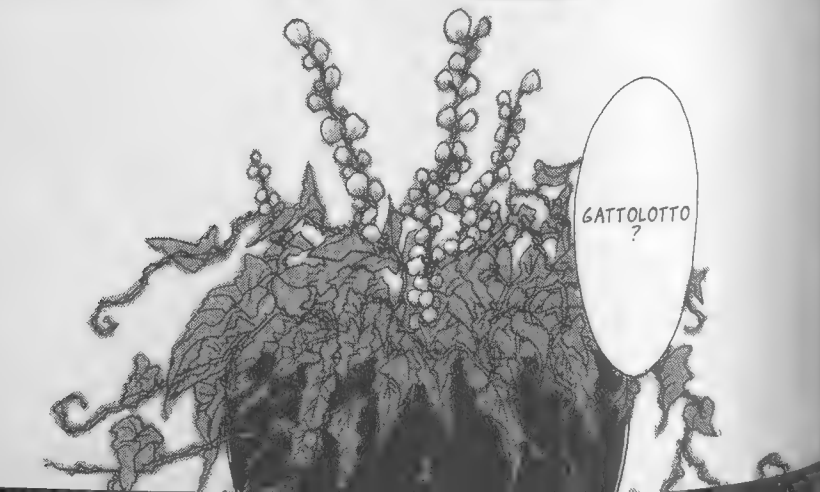
THAT'S ODD...

AH, FUCK IT. I'M TAKING IT BACK TOMORROW.



FLOWER BUDS?

BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN A NIGHT...



GATTOLOTTO?



A DREAM...



MM?

I SHOULD TAKE IT BACK TO THE SHOP.

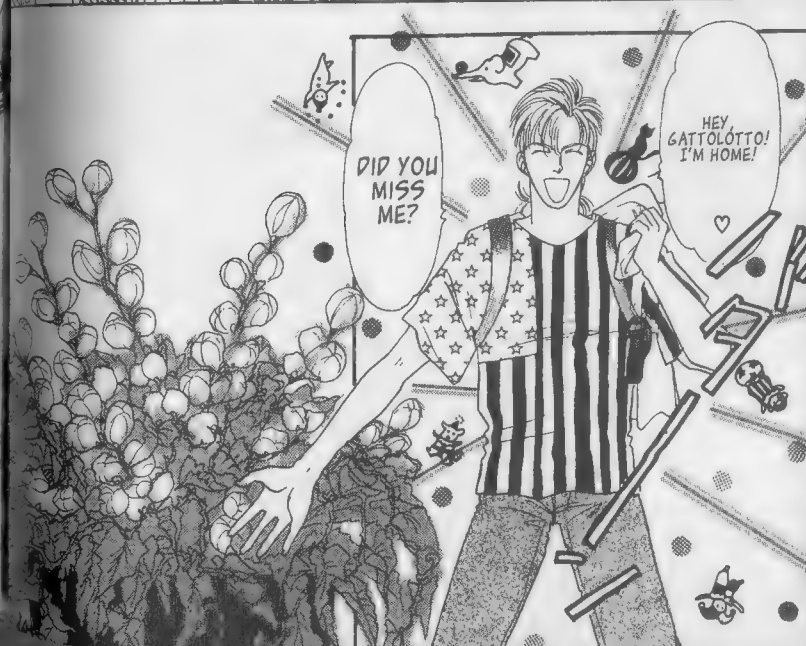


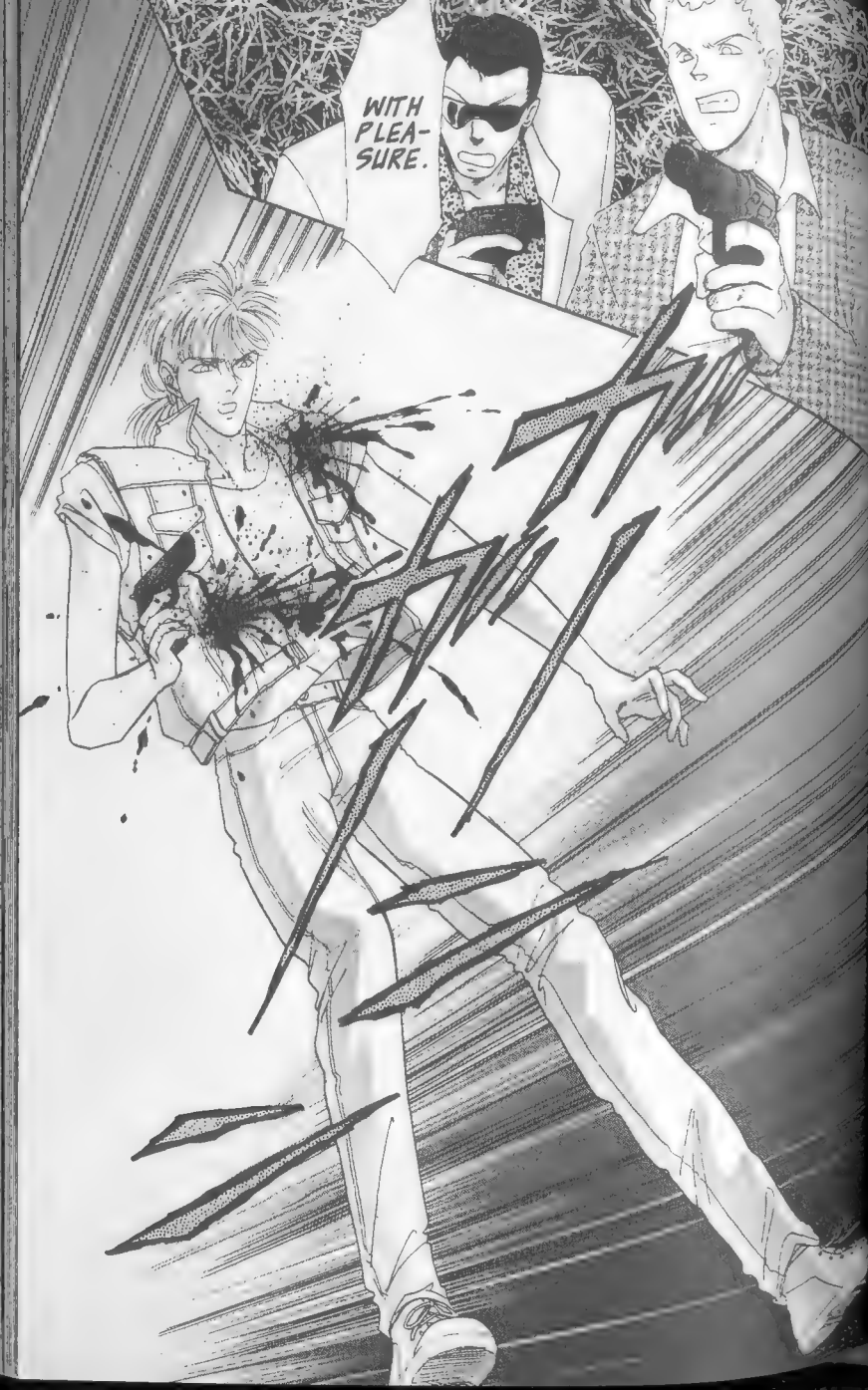
THAT GODDAMN PLANT IS FREAKING ME OUT. I DON'T TRUST THE COUNT. HE WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME UNLESS HE HAD AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE.



GATTOLOTTO...

YOU'VE REALLY BRIGHTENED THE PLACE UP, HAVEN'T YOU?





WITH
PLEA-
SURE.

WE'RE
SERIOUSLY
OUTNUMBERED.
DON'T MAKE A
MOVE UNTIL OUR
BACKUP GETS
HERE. GOT IT,
ORLOT?

B-
BUT...



RIGHT

CIRCLE
AROUND
THE
BACK!



IF WE LOSE
THEM NOW, IT
COULD BE MONTHS
BEFORE WE'RE
ABLE TO TRACK
THEM DOWN AGAIN.

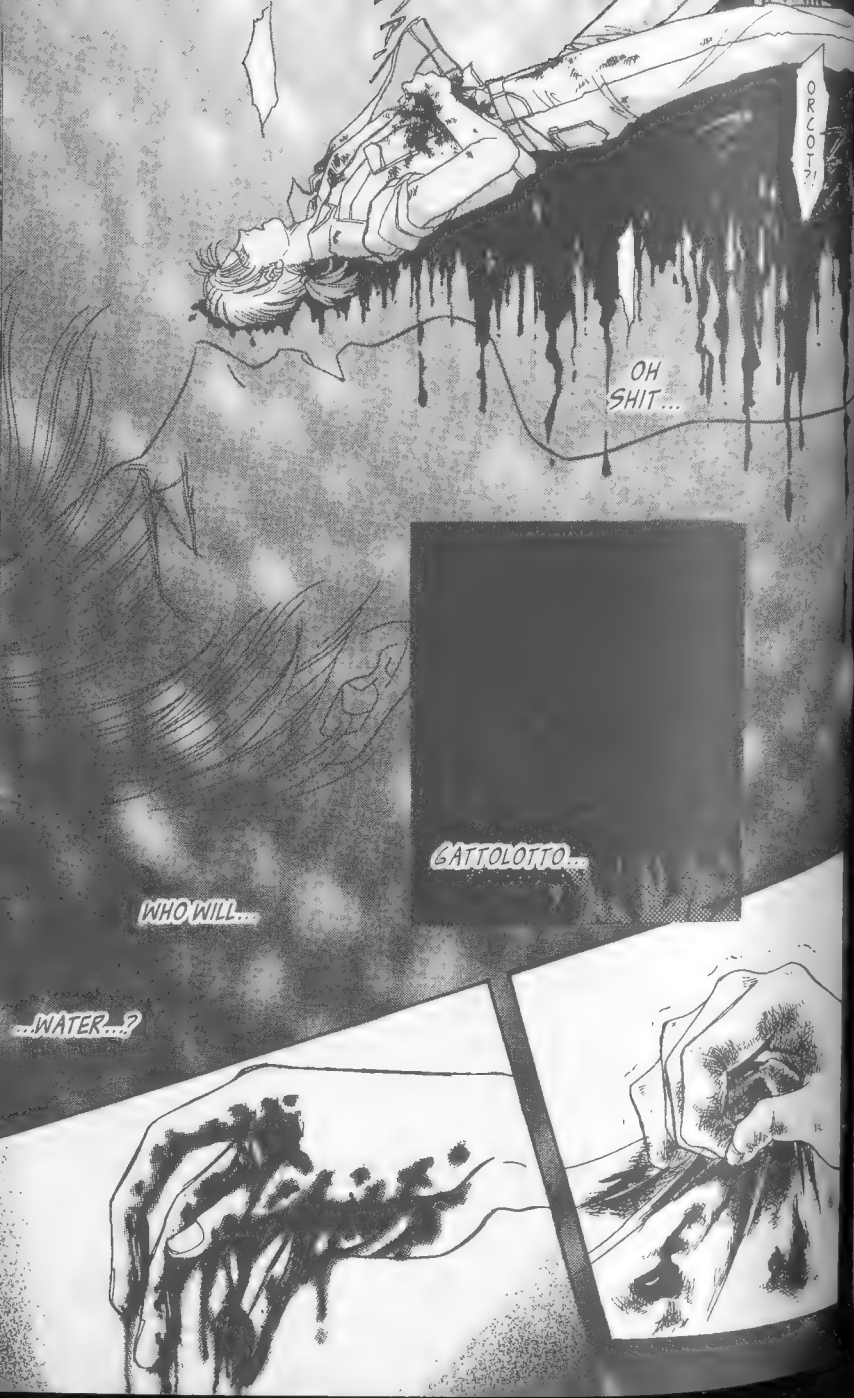
WE HAVE THEM
ON THE RUN.

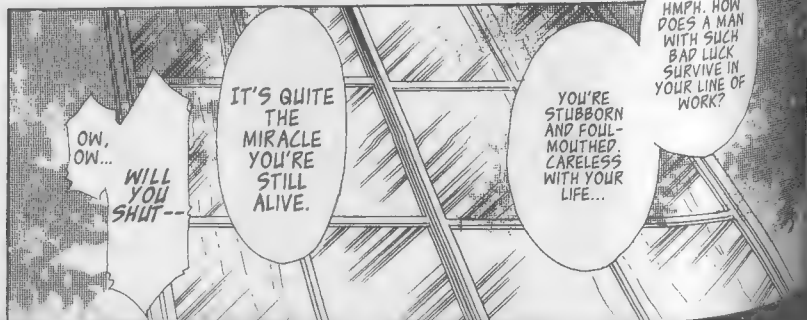
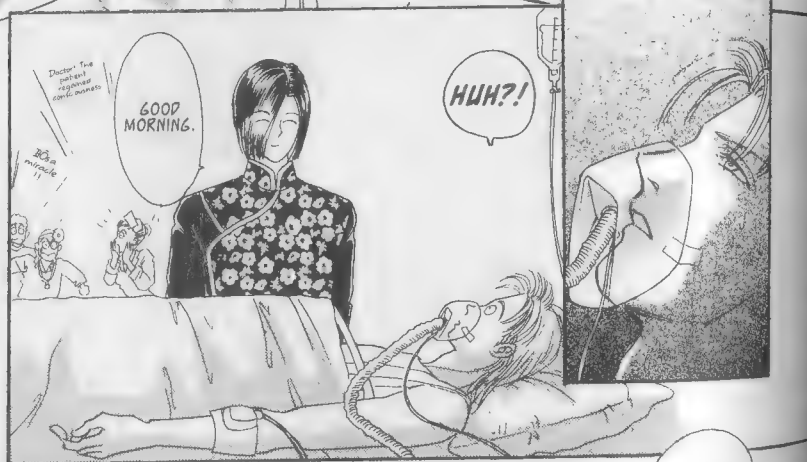
HMPH

TAKE
CARE
OF HIM,
CLYDE.

HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE!!
DON'T
MOVE!!

WHEN





OH, WOW...

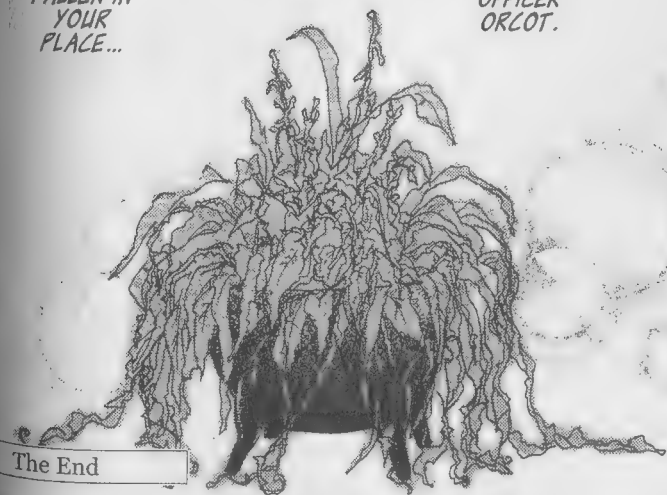
YOUR FLOWERS...
ARE SO... BEAUTIFUL...

AND SO...
RED...

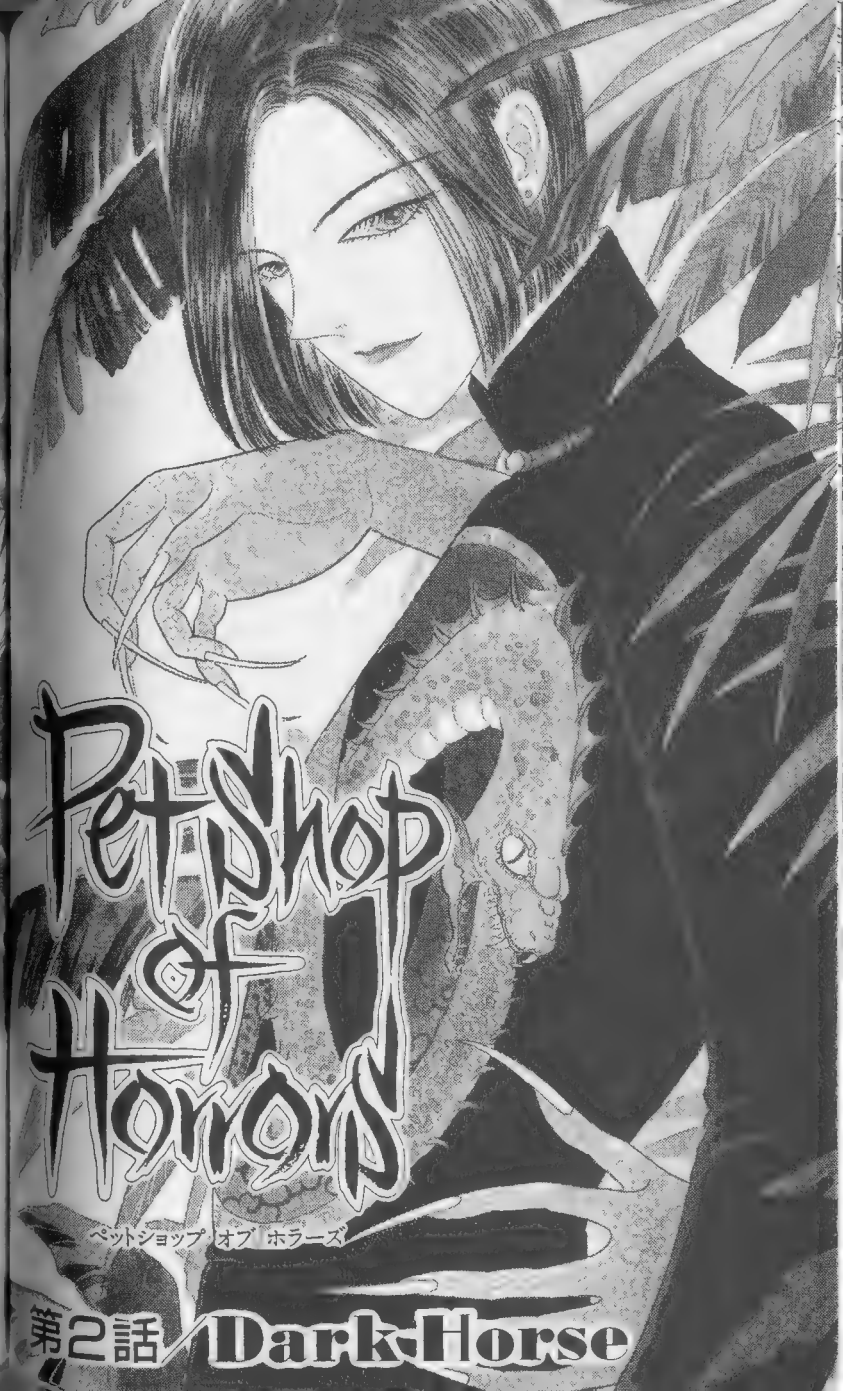


HER RED
FLOWERS
HAVE
FALLEN IN
YOUR
PLACE...

SHE
BLOOMED
FOR YOU,
OFFICER
ORCOT.



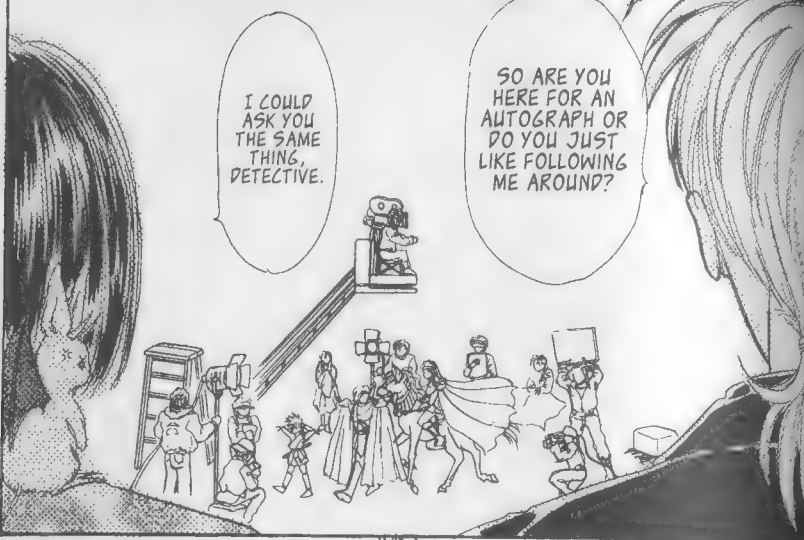
The End



Petshop of Horrors

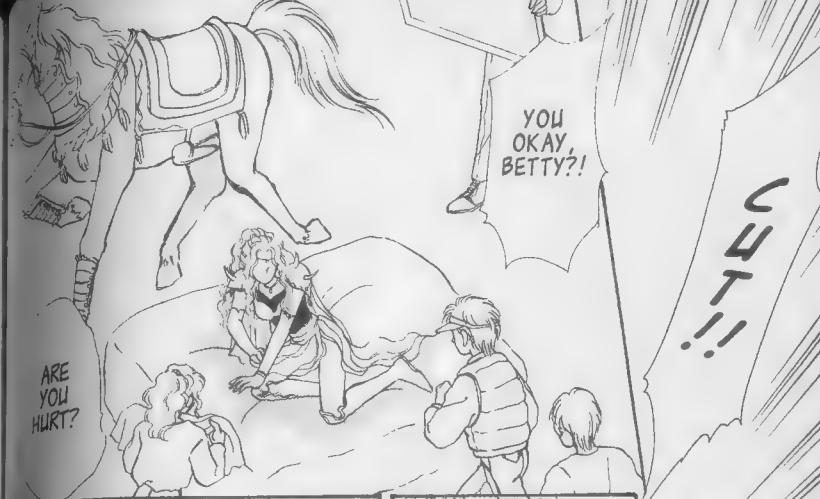
ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ

第2話 / Dark Horse



I COULD
ASK YOU
THE SAME
THING,
DETECTIVE.

SO ARE YOU
HERE FOR AN
AUTOGRAPH OR
DO YOU JUST
LIKE FOLLOWING
ME AROUND?



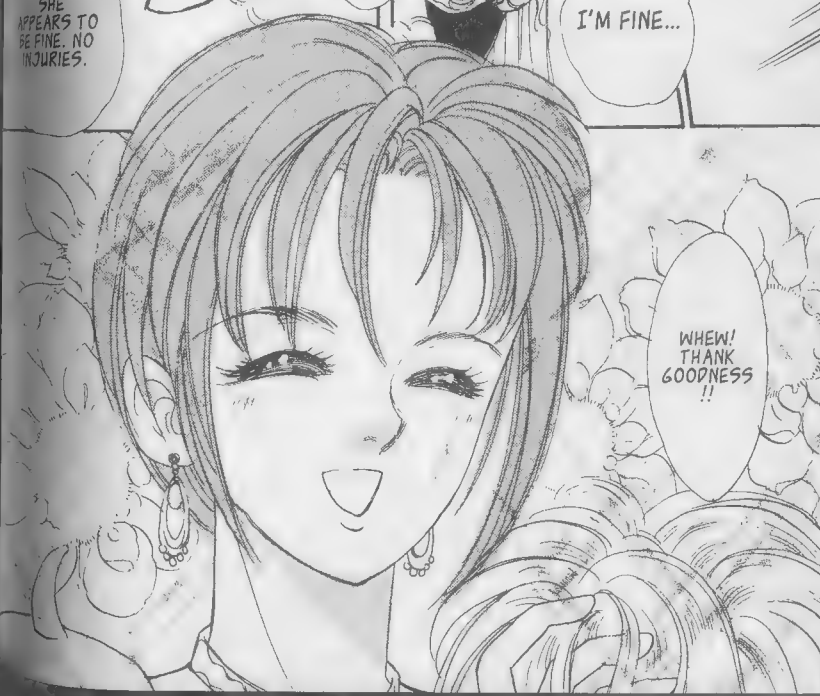
YOU
OKAY,
BETTY?!

ARE
YOU
HURT?

AND THE
HORSE?

SHE
APPEARS TO
BE FINE. NO
INJURIES.

I'M FINE...



WHEW!
THANK
GOODNESS
!!

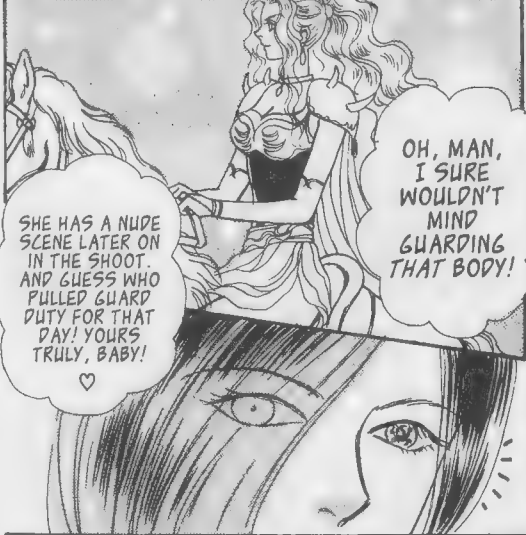
HEY, YOU
NEVER
ANSWERED
ME. WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

THE PRODUCER
IS A VERY
GOOD FRIEND
OF MINE, AND
HE WANTED A
SPECIAL
ANIMAL FOR
HIS FILM.

WELL,
SHE IS
SINGLE
NOW...

AND IT
PROBABLY
DOESN'T HURT
THAT THE
LEADING LADY
IS A THING
DROPPED FROM
HEAVEN.

THESE LARGE
MOVIE SHOOTS
CAN GET CRAZY.
WE USUALLY HAVE
AN OFFICER HERE
TO MAKE SURE
EVERYTHING IS
SAFE AND BY
THE BOOK.



SHE HAS A NUDE
SCENE LATER ON
IN THE SHOOT.
AND GUESS WHO
PULLED GUARD
DUTY FOR THAT
DAY! YOURS
TRULY, BABY!

OH, MAN,
I SURE
WOULDN'T
MIND
GUARDING
THAT BODY!

OH HEY,
THAT'S
BRIDGET
KERNEL!

Like talking to a
mummy in 'hah'...

HUH?

NICE HAIR,
NICE LEGS,
AND A VERY
FIRM RUMP.

OFFICER, YOU
NEVER CEASE TO
REMIND ME THAT
PEOPLE ARE STILL
ANIMALS AT
HEART. STILL,
YOU'RE RIGHT,
SHE'S QUITE
LOVELY.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE
ACTUALLY ON
THE SAME
WAVE-
LENGTH.

OF COURSE
NOT! THE
HORN'S JUST
A PROP.

WHAT THE---?
WAIT A
MINUTE,
THAT'S NOT
A--

I...I
SEE.

IT GOES WITHOUT
SAYING THAT A
REAL UNICORN
WOULD NEVER
ALLOW ITSELF TO BE
FILMED BY THIS
CREW.

UNICORNS WILL
ONLY ALLOW
PEOPLE WHO ARE
PURE AND CHASTE
TO APPROACH
THEM.

OFFICER
...



AND CUT!
BEAUTIFUL!



SHE'S
GOOD! IT
ALL LOOKS
SO REAL.

?!



HMM?
TWO
PRINCESSES
?

I'M
ALL
SET!

READY FOR
THE NEXT
SCENE,
BETTY?

THE OTHER
GIRL IS BRIDGET'S
STUNTWOMAN.
SHE'S THE ONE
WHO'S ACTUALLY IN
ALL THE RIDING
SCENES.

Pad-
ded
Bra



AND...

...A
C
T
I
O
N!!



LOOK
OUT!



THIS
ISN'T
PART OF
THE
SCENE!
THAT
HORSE
HAS
LOST IT!

WAIT A
SECOND.

IT'S
HEADING
FOR THE
EXTRAS!



COUNT
D?!

WHAT?
ARE
YOU
SURE?

IN HER FURY,
SHE BROKE
HER LEG.

NOT QUITE.
I WASN'T
QUICK
ENOUGH.

WHAT?!
NOW,
WAIT
JUST A
MINUTE!

LOOKS LIKE A
BAD BREAK,
TOO. WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
TO PUT HER
DOWN.

SHIT...
HE'S
RIGHT.

BETTY, I'M
REALLY
SORRY. BUT
WITH A BREAK
THAT BAD...

...THERE'S NOT A
LOT YOU CAN DO.

BETTY
!!

COUNT!
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

A HORSEFLY
FLEW INTO
HER EAR AND
STARTLED
HER.

IT IS? WELL,
THANK
GOODNESS
YOU WERE
HERE TO CALM
HER.

I'VE HEARD
THAT SOUND
BEFORE. IT'S A
TRICK TRAINERS
USE, RIGHT?

YOU
WERE
WHIST-
LING.
WHY?

WHAT
HAPPENED?

SHE'S BEEN
SO GENTLE
TILL NOW.

GOOD,
GOOD...



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

SOS

SOS

YOU'VE CALMED DOWN A LITTLE?

SOS

OH...

THANK YOU.



DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOUR RIDING TECHNIQUE IS SUPERB.



IT'S... IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...

SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ENDED UP LIKE THAT.

SNIFF

SNIFF



I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY!

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S FOR HER OWN GOOD. SHE'S SUFFERING.



C'MON, BETTY, YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE THIS.



NO, LET ME GO!!

I DON'T GET IT. WHAT DOES HE HAVE THAT I DON'T? I LIKE HORSES TOO.

LOOKS LIKE THE COUNT HAS YET ANOTHER FAN.

Count D, right? You brought the white unicorn...

I'm something of an animal enthusiast. I run a pet store in Chinatown.

I'm Betty Sandoval.

That unicorn's something else. How'd you get the horn to stick?

AND UNLIKE THE COUNT, I DON'T HAVE TO RIDE SIDESADDLE.

H-HEY, WAIT FOR ME!

HUH?!

Sounds good. Shall we go?

Oh, him...?

He's my chauffer.

Who's he?

Chauffer? Why you little...
~ ~ ~

YEAH, I'VE BEEN RIDING MY WHOLE LIFE. I'M A PROFESSIONAL JOCKEY. WELL, SOMEWHAT PROFESSIONAL.

WERE YOU FORMALLY TRAINED?

I JUST WORK AS A STUNTWOMAN TO PAY THE BILLS.

WOMEN JOCKEYS... HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

Have some chocolate.

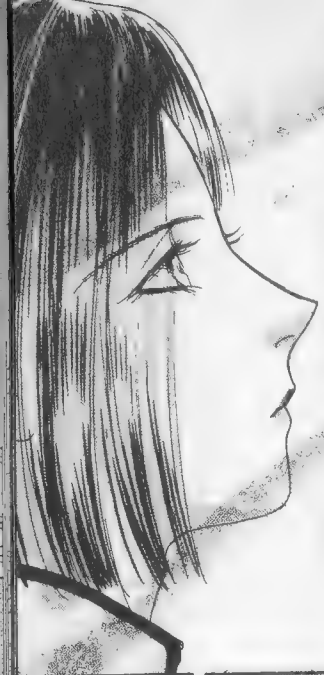
MY FAMILY BREEDS AND RAISES THOROUGHBREDS. RACING'S IN MY BLOOD.

REALLY ...

I'D ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO SEE SOME OF YOUR THOROUGHBREDS.

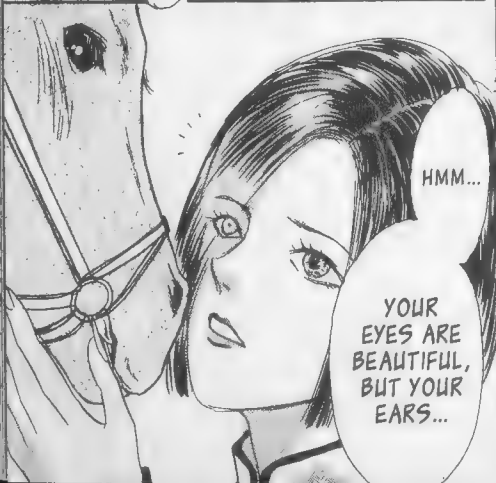
I'D BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU THE FARM.

MY DREAM IS TO WIN THE KENTUCKY DERBY WITH ONE OF MY FAMILY'S HORSES.



WELL, I'M IMPRESSED! THAT HORSE IS NOTORIOUSLY MOODY. HE NEVER LETS ANYONE NEAR HIM.

I... SEE...



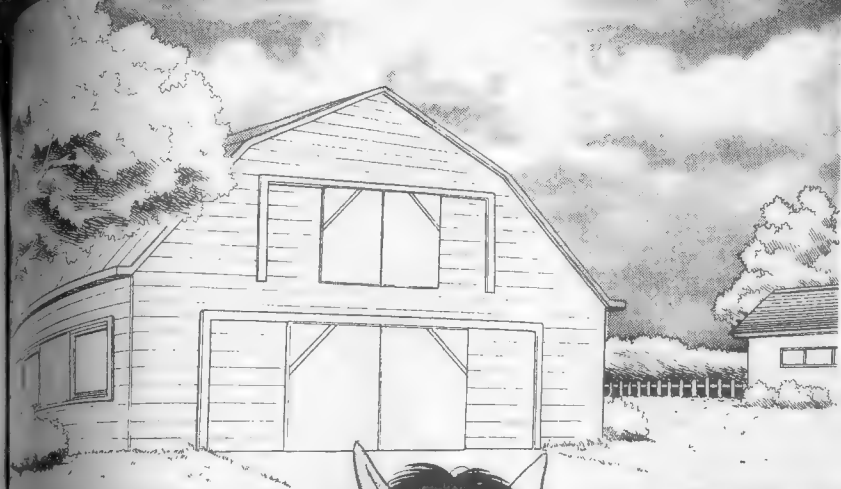
HMM...

YOUR EYES ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT YOUR EARS...



MY, WHAT LOVELY EYES.

HE REALLY DOES LOVE HORSES.



THIS IS 1,000 DEATHS.



SO THIS IS THE SANDOVAL FAMILY FARM?

I EXPECTED MORE STRAW HATS AND OVERALLS.

\$3,000
?!

TH-THE
ENTRY FEE
IS THAT
MUCH?!

THAT'S NOT WHAT
I MEANT. I CAN'T AFFORD
THE \$3,000 ENTRY FEE IT
COSTS TO ENTER A
THOROUGHBRED IN
A RACE.

1,000
DEATHS
HAS BEEN
DEAF SINCE
BIRTH.

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT...

HOW
COULD YOU
POSSIBLY
HAVE
NOTICED
THAT?

T-TEN
THOUSAND
?!
THAT'S
INSANE

Damn
...

DETECTIVE, DERBIES
ARE AS VARIED AS
THE HORSES
THEMSELVES. SOME
OF THE MORE
PRESTIGIOUS RACES
HAVE ENTRY FEES OF
WELL OVER \$10,000.

SHE'S A DESCENDANT
OF WAR ADMIRAL. HER
GREAT-GRANDFATHER
WON THE PREAKNESS
TWICE, AND HER
MOTHER WAS A
SERIOUS CONTENDER
FOR THE TRIPLE
CROWN.

BLOODLINES,
DETECTIVE.

WAIT A MINUTE!
SHE'S A
DESCENDENT OF
WHO? WHAT
PEDIGREE? WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU GUYS
TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S QUITE
A PEDIGREE.
SHE SHOULD
DO QUITE
WELL.

C'MON, I'VE
SEEN THOSE
PRIZE POTS!
EVEN THE
AMATEUR
RACES CAN DISH
OUT A HEFTY
PAYOUT!

I DON'T
KNOW IF IT'LL
BE WORTH IT.

ACTUALLY,
YES.

CAN
SHE RACE
LIKE THAT?

SHE DOES
FINE WITHOUT
HER HEARING.
THE PROBLEM
IS THAT I'M
THE ONLY
JOCKEY
SHE'LL LET
RIDE HER.

AND I'M NOT
SURE I WANT
TO RACE HER
PROFESSION-
ALLY.

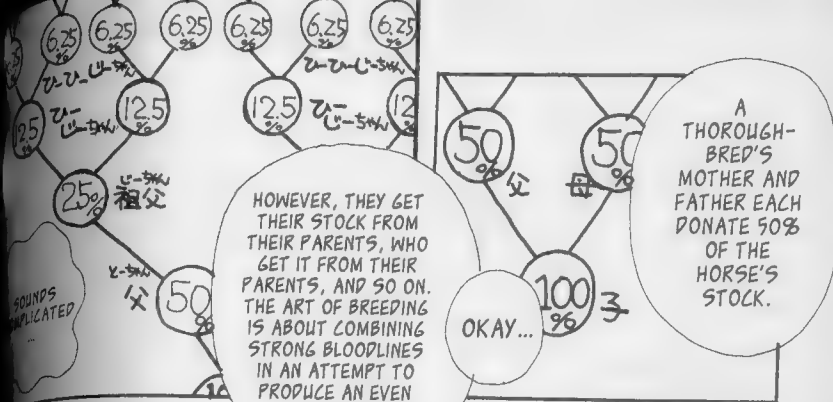
IN THEORY,
THE HORSE
WITH THE
PUREST
BLOODLINE IS
THE FASTEST.

THOROUGHBREDS
ARE LITTLE MORE
THAN LIVING,
BREATHING
RACING
MACHINES--
EVERY ONE OF
THEM BUILT BY
HUMAN HANDS.

DERBIES
ARE
CONTESTS
OF LINEAGE,
AS MUCH
AS
ANYTHING
ELSE.

SOME PEOPLE
BELIEVE A
RACE IS OVER
BEFORE THE
STARTING
GUN IS EVER
FIRED.

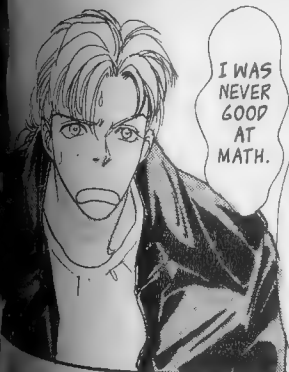
THAT'S WHY
PEDIGREES ARE
SO IMPORTANT
TO RACING
ENTHUSIASTS.



IF YOU GO BACK FAR
ENOUGH, TO THE EARLY 18TH
CENTURY, YOU'RE REALLY
ONLY TALKING ABOUT THREE
HORSES.

THEIR NAMES
WERE MATCHEM,
HEROD AND
ECLIPSE, AND
THEY'RE THE
ANCESTORS OF
ALL REGISTERED
THOROUGHBREDS.

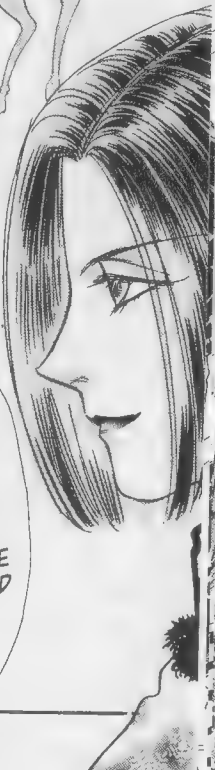
THOSE THREE
STALLIONS ARE THE
ADAM AND EVE OF THE
RACING WORLD.



I WAS
NEVER
GOOD
AT
MATH.

BUT AFTER 20
GENERATIONS,
THE CHANCES
FOR A
PUREBLOOD
ARE AROUND
0.00005%.

BREEDERS
WANT TO
PRODUCE A
HORSE OF THE
PUREST BLOOD
POSSIBLE.





C-COUNT
?!

\$5,000
...

NO, I'LL
GIVE YOU
\$10,000.

I'LL
PAY YOU
WHATEVER
IT TAKES.

I COULD
SURE
USE THE
MONEY...

BUT I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
SELL 1,000
DEATHS.

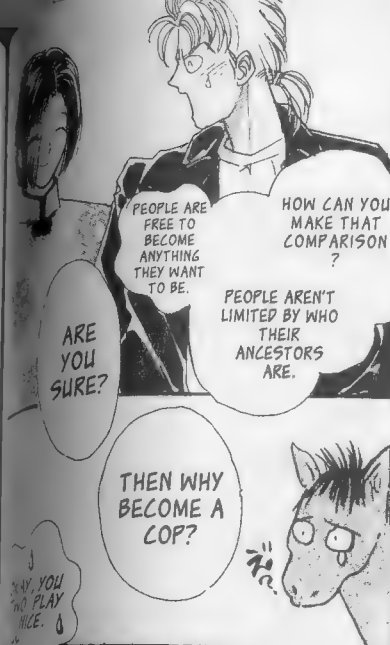
SHE'S A
CHAMPION...
I KNOW IT. IT'S
TAKEN YEARS OF
BREEDING, BUT
WE'VE FINALLY
PRODUCED A
HORSE I FEEL
REALLY GOOD
ABOUT.

TH-THIS...
IT'S SO
SUDDEN...

WHAT?

BETTY
...

WOULD YOU
LET ME HAVE
1,000
DEATHS?



PEOPLE ARE
FREE TO
BECOME
ANYTHING
THEY WANT
TO BE.

HOW CAN YOU
MAKE THAT
COMPARISON
?

PEOPLE AREN'T
LIMITED BY WHO
THEIR
ANCESTORS
ARE.

ARE
YOU
SURE?

THEN WHY
BECOME A
COP?

AY, YOU
WOULD PLAY
NICE.



I'M
FINISHED. MY
APOLOGIES,
LEON.

WHAT'S
GOING ON
BETWEEN
THESE
TWO?

A TRUE
PUREBLOOD
MAY ONLY COME
BY ONCE IN
A LIFETIME, IF
THAT. YET TO
BREEDERS AND
ENTHUSIASTS,
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A
PUREBLOOD
AND A NON-
PUREBLOOD...

...IS LIKE THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A
LEADING
ACTRESS...

AND A
STUNTWOMAN.



MMM?

MAN,
YOU ARE
SOMETHING
ELSE.

THAT
HORSE...
EVEN A RUBE
LIKE ME CAN
SEE IT'S AS
SLOW AS A
MULE.

AND IT'S
FUNNY,
BECAUSE YOU
DON'T SEEM
LIKE THE TYPE
TO MISJUDGE
THE VALUE OF
A HORSE.

Parm
CITY

A HORSE OF
THE FINEST
LINEAGE...
ONE THAT
AN OWNER
WOULD PAY
MILLIONS FOR.

MY SHOP
HAS
MANY OF
THEM.

WHAT IF
I GAVE
YOU A
FASTER
HORSE
IN
RETURN?

LEAVE.

YOU
WEREN'T
INTERESTED
IN 1,000
DEATHS...

YOU WERE
INTERESTED
IN BETTY!

AM I
RIGHT,
OR AM I
RIGHT?

1,000
DEATHS
IS A FINE
HORSE.

MY DEAR
DETECTIVE,
YOU ARE
WRONG.

LEAVE,
NOW!!

1,000
DEATHS
ISN'T
FOR SALE.

SHE'S A
MEMBER
OF OUR
FAMILY!

BUT HE
DOESN'T
HAVE
INSURANCE
...

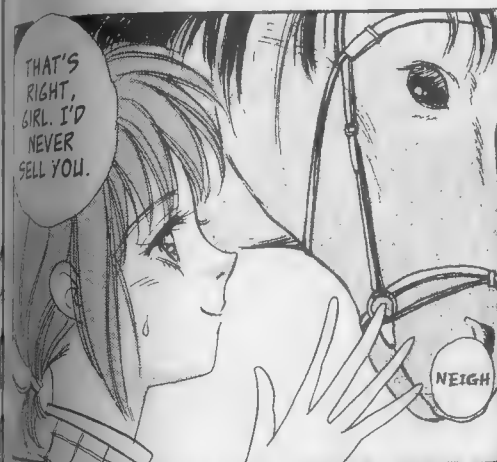


HIS
CONDITION
ISN'T
IMMEDIATELY
LIFE
THREATENING,
BUT...

HE'S
DEFINITELY
GOING TO
NEED
HOSPITAL-
IZATION.



THE FINEST I'VE
EVER SEEN...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

THERE
CAN'T BE A
FARM IN
THE MIDDLE
OF
CHINATOWN.

THIS
WAY,
PLEASE...

LET ME
SHOW YOU
THE
HORSES
I'M
WILLING
TO TRADE.

HUH?

THEY'RE
NOT IN A
TRAILER?

WHAT'S
THAT
SMELL?
FLOWERS?

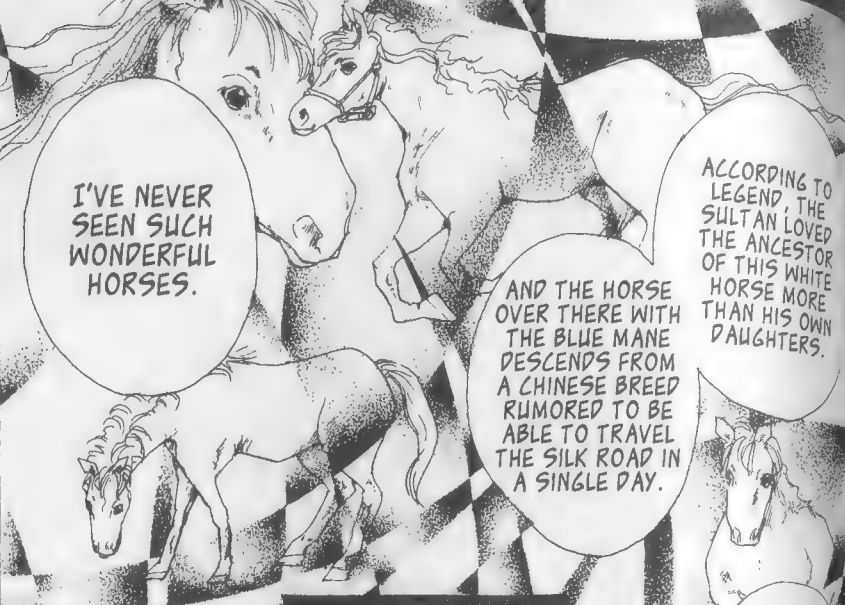
COME IN...

SO HAVE YOU
RECONSIDERED
?

COUNT...

WOULD YOU
REALLY TRADE
1,000 DEATHS
FOR A FASTER
HORSE?

OF
COURSE
I WILL.



I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH
WONDERFUL
HORSES.

AND THE HORSE
OVER THERE WITH
THE BLUE MANE
DESCENDS FROM
A CHINESE BREED
RUMORED TO BE
ABLE TO TRAVEL
THE SILK ROAD IN
A SINGLE DAY.

ACCORDING TO
LEGEND, THE
SULTAN LOVED
THE ANCESTOR
OF THIS WHITE
HORSE MORE
THAN HIS OWN
DAUGHTERS.

AND THIS ONE...
NAPOLEON USED
THIS HORSE TO
RIPE OVER
MOUNTAINS.

HUH?

QUEEN
VICTORIA'S
CORONATION...
HOW CAN
THAT BE?

THIS GIRL'S
AN ARAB
RACER...

AND, YES,
THAT ONE WAS
SEEN AT QUEEN
VICTORIA'S
CORONATION
PARADE...

EH?

NO
WAY...



THIS...
THIS IS
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

ISN'T SHE
LOVELY? AND
SHE HAS SUCH
A PRETTY
MANE...

SHE'S A
DIRECT
DESCENDANT
OF ECLIPSE.

NOT THE
ECLIPSE?
SHE CAN'T
BE!

HMM
?

I SEE...

IF IT
WASNT...

THIS HAS
TO BE A
DREAM.

WELL, THEN...



THIS GIRL IS
CALLED
NIGHTMARE.

AYAA!

OH,
SORRY.

SHE HAUNTS
DREAMS
FROM THE
DARKNESS
OF NIGHT.

NIGHT-
MARE?





I...
I'M
SORRY.

I
CAN'T
DO
THIS.

THESE
HORSES,
THEY DON'T
APPEAL TO
YOU?



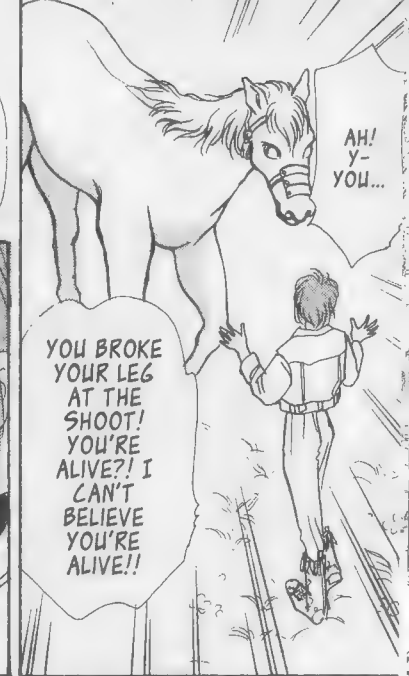
BUT...
BUT...

NO,
IT'S
NOT
THAT...
THEY'RE ALL
WONDERFUL
HORSES.



I'M SO
HAPPY
FOR YOU...

I DEMANDED
THE
PRODUCER
RETURN HER
TO ME.



YOU BROKE
YOUR LEG
AT THE
SHOOT!
YOU'RE
ALIVE?! I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
ALIVE!!

AH!
Y-YOU...



I'LL
GIVE YOU
WHATEVER
HORSE YOU
LIKE BEST.

NOW,
BETTY,
PLEASE
CHOOSE.



LET'S MAKE
OUR MIRACLE.



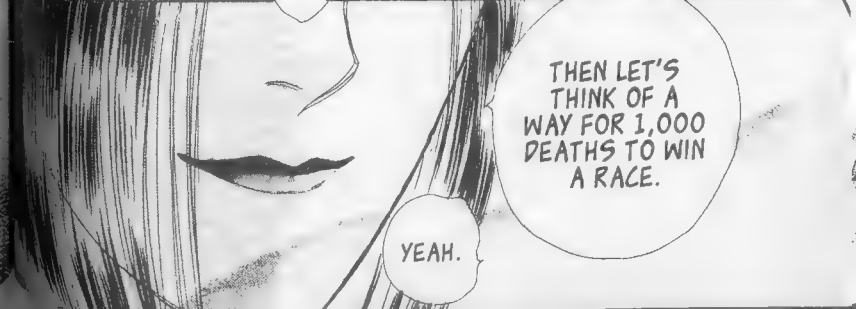
I STILL
WANT TO
RIDE 1,000
DEATHS!



TO ME,
1,000
DEATHS IS
THE BEST
HORSE IN
THE WORLD!!

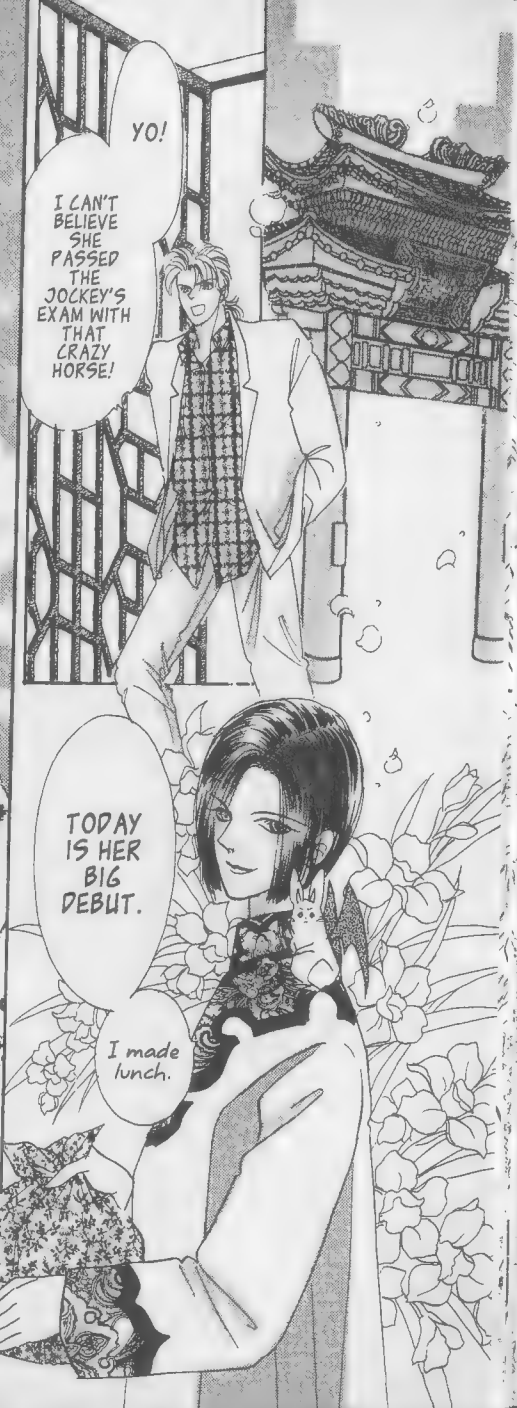
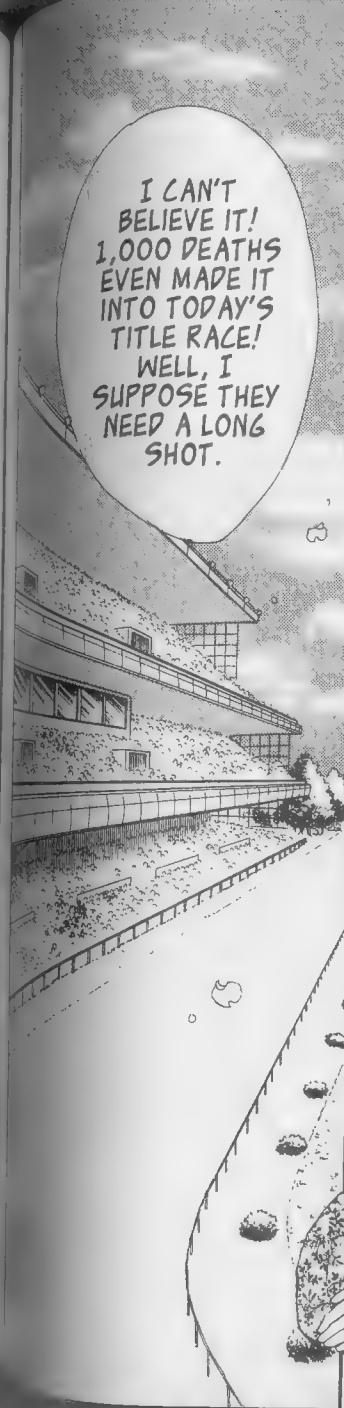
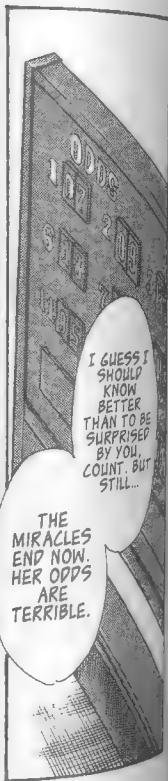
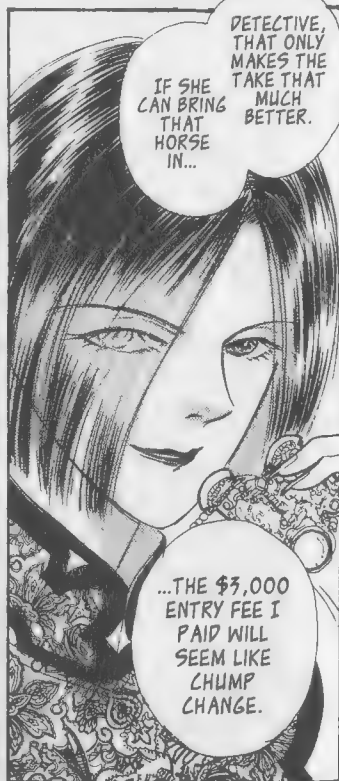


I
UNDER-
STAND.



THEN LET'S
THINK OF A
WAY FOR 1,000
DEATHS TO WIN
A RACE.

YEAH.



1,000
DEATHS IS
NOW MORE
THAN 10
LENGTHS
BEHIND THE
PACK.

1000

IN THE TOP
SPOT IS BLUE
THUNDERBOLT
WITH GLOWING
EMPEROR
TRAILING
CLOSE BEHIND.

AND THE
LEADERS
HAVE
PASSED
CORNER
#3.

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE? WE'RE
BETTER THAN
THIS!

IS THIS
REALLY
THE BEST
WE CAN
DO?!

C'MON,
1,000
DEATHS!!

WHAT'S
THIS?

?

THE RACE
ISN'T OVER
YET.

THIS IS
SAD,
COUNT.

THIS MAY
VERY WELL
MARK THE
BEGINNING
AND THE END
OF THE YOUNG
JOCKEY'S
CAREER.

...1,000
DEATHS!
CARRYING
ROOKIE
JOCKEY
BETTY
SANDOVAL...

AND
THEY'RE
OFF!!

AND...
GETTING A
LATE START
IS HORSE
#18...



AS IF THIS
WHOLE EVENT
HASN'T BEEN
EMBARRASSING
ENOUGH.

OH,
NEVER
MIND
THAT!

THEY'RE
NOT
GONNA
HEAR
THIS.

WOO
SH

A
WHISTLE?!

IT'S FOR
CHEERING
BETTY ON.
I'LL TELL
YOU WHEN
TO BLOW IT.



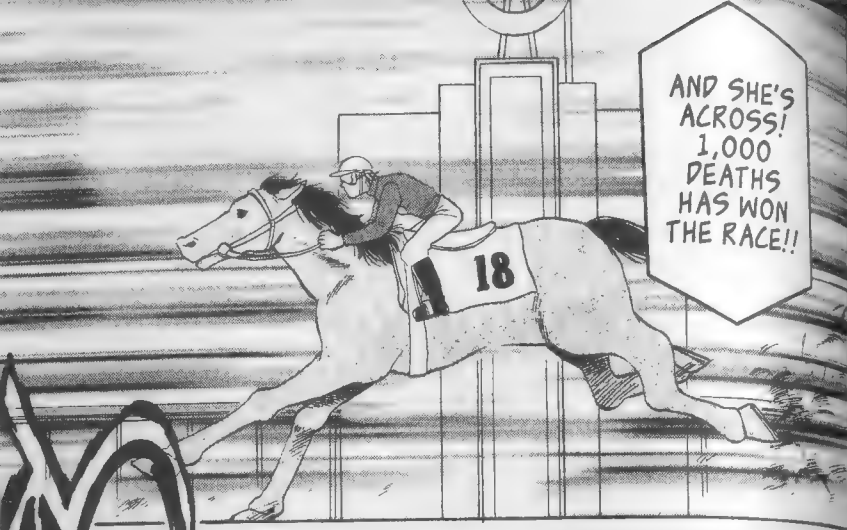
NOW!

BLOW
IT!!



THE
LEADERS
ARE
ROUNDING
THE FINAL
TURN...





AND SHE'S
ACROSS!
1,000
DEATHS
HAS WON
THE RACE!!



HOW
ABOUT
THAT?!

WHAT A
BIZARRE AND
AMAZING
RACE!!
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,
THAT'S ONE
FOR THE
RECORD
BOOKS!



AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE
GLOW--

THEY'RE
ALL...
THEY'RE ALL
LEAVING THE
COURSE!!

WHAT ON
EARTH?!
ALL THE
HORSES
ARE
HEADING
FOR THE
CORNER!!



SHE'S
MAKING
THE FINAL
TURN AND
HEADING
TOWARDS
THE FINISH
LINE!!

WAIT A
MINUTE!
NOT QUITE
ALL! 1,000
DEATHS IS
STILL
RUNNING
STRONG!

MATCHEM...
ISN'T THAT
ONE OF THE
FIRST...
BUT HOW?

REMEMBER,
YOU'RE AN
ACCOMPLICE.

DON'T
FORGET
...

UH...

...YOU BET ON
1,000 DEATHS
TOO.

THIS WAS
MATCHEM'S
WHISTLE.

THIS WHISTLE
IS SPECIAL,
DETECTIVE
ORCOT.

SURE...

THIS
WHISTLE...?!

HUH?

HOLY
SHIT!

WHAT THE
HELL
JUST
HAPPENED
?!

THERE'S
NOTHING
STRANGE
ABOUT IT.
IT'S A
TRAINER'S
WHISTLE.

YOU'RE
UNDER
ARREST!

GODDAMMIT,
COUNT! YOU RIGGED
THE RESULTS AND
STARTED A
STAMPEDE.

OH,
REALLY...

THEN THE SOUND OF
THIS WHISTLE'S THE
REASON ALL THE
OTHER HORSES
GALLOPED OFF THE
COURSE?



WHAT A SHAME...

ALL OF MY PETS AND I'LL STILL NEVER HAVE THE HORSE WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EYES.

End of Episode

THE
MIRACLE
OF
MEMORY...

THE BLOOD LIVES ON DESPITE THE PASSING OF THREE CENTURIES.

I WAS TAKING A GAMBLE TOO...

It's a coincidence...

It has to be...

THERE WAS A 0.00005% CHANCE THAT HER ANCESTORS' BLOOD WOULD REMEMBER THAT SOUND.



Betty Sardo
Charming A

Miracle Princee

22-year-old wild child gives up summit for

Deaths Defying!

Big Lou Completely Dominated by 1,000 Deaths

Plans to enter the Kentucky Derby!

DAILY TIMES

1,000 Deaths Wins 3 in a Row

Miracle Horse Quickly Becoming Triple Crown
"This is like a dream come true," says Betty, the winning



The making of a Derby favorite?

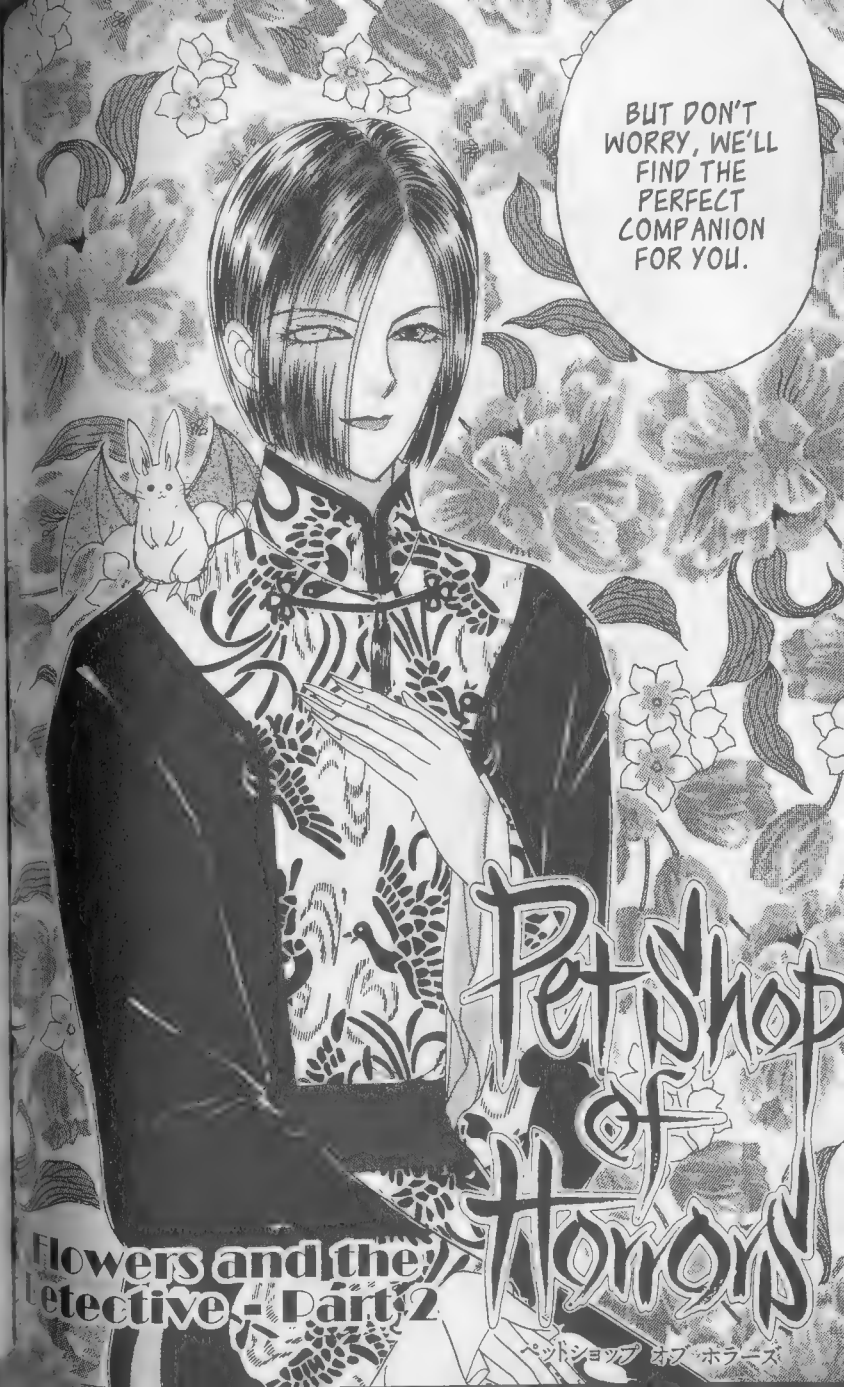
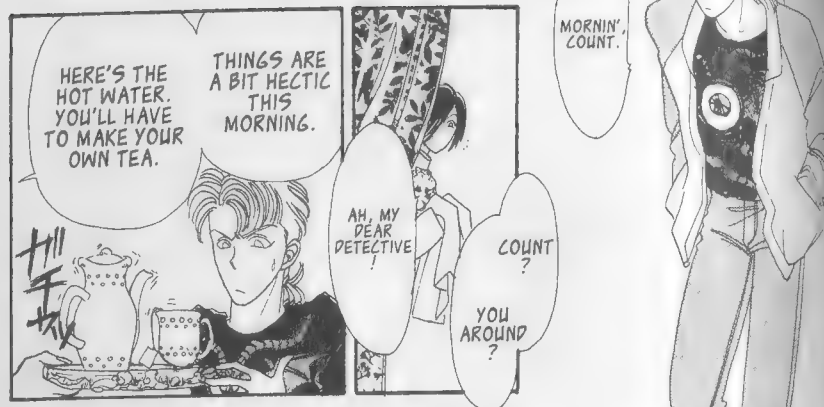


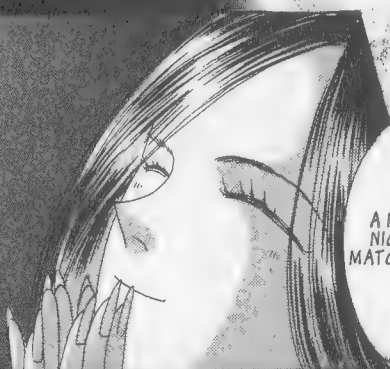
Flowers and the Detective

And now, I'll once again indulge myself by switching from animals to plants.

For those who are curious, the Gatto lotto is a cactus. However, this time around, our lovely girl is a "moonlight beauty" worthy of being a centerfold (if Burpee catalogs had centerfolds, I suppose). Incidentally, the line, "you only have one chance," refers to a plant that, through cross-pollination, blooms only once every 25 years.

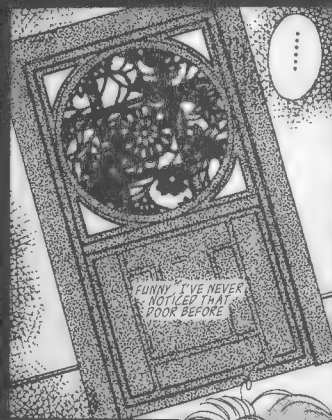






AH, WHAT A LOVELY MOON!

A PERFECT NIGHT FOR MATCHMAKING!



HAVING ME GOAT-SIT IS THE PERFECT WAY TO ENSURE I DON'T INTERFERE WITH WHATEVER D'S UP TO!

WAIT A MINUTE ...



WHERE THE HELL DID HE COME GO? IT'S GETTING LATE!



PANT

PANT

PANT



.....



IT WOULD BE BAD.



WHY?

OH, AND DON'T GIVE PON-CHAN ANY TEA.



Another.



無い Hmm? Nothing.



HERE.



WELL, AS LONG AS THEY'RE OCCUPIED.



HMM...

TH-THAT'S HILARIOUS!

What?



COUNT!
HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE!

HUH?

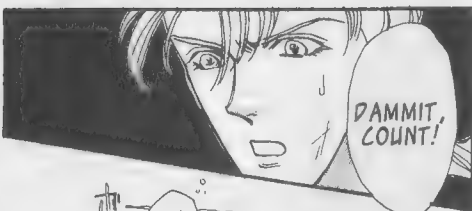
OH, COUNT, IF
THERE WERE
EVER ANY
THOUGHTS OF
TAKING IT
EASY ON YOU,
THEY'RE GONE
NOW...

...YOU
LYING
SACK OF...

WHERE
THE HELL
AM I?!

WHAT THE
FUCK?! HOW
THE HELL
DID I
WIND UP
OUTSIDE?

THIS
BETTER
NOT BE A
JOKE!



DAMMIT, COUNT!



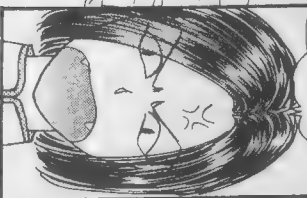
OF ALL THE RUDE ...

AFTER ALL THE BREAKS I'VE CUT YOU, YOU CAN'T EVEN GIVE ME A LITTLE SUPPORT HERE?! ARE YOU JEALOUS OR SOMETHING?!



SURELY, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT THIS ISN'T YOUR COMPANION. HE'S--

MISTRESS !!



YOU'RE INTERRUPTING A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW!



AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE? WELL, IF THE WHOLE THING'S ALREADY ARRANGED, THEN WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

DETECTIVE, THE INTERVIEW'S PURPOSE IS TO DETERMINE COMPATIBILITY.



WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MARRIAGE ?!

OH, YOU IGNORANT... IT'S AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE PRIOR TO AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE.



... BEAUTIFUL!

YOU'RE ...



I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY INSIDE!

UM... EH... ER...

UH... HI, COUNT.



DETECTIVE ORCOT!!



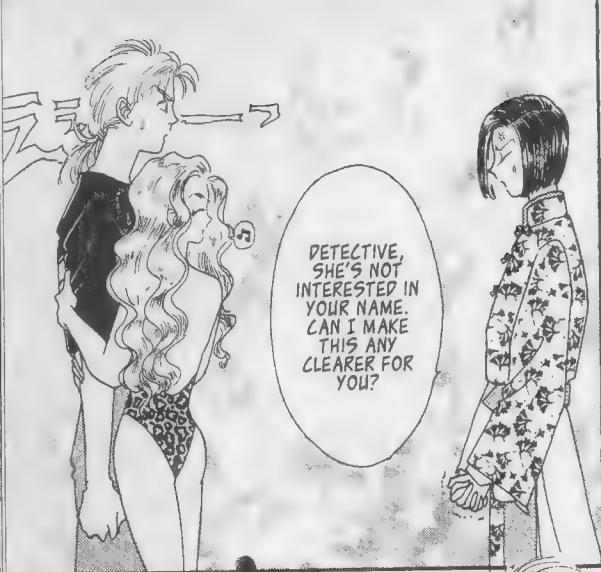
Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE...

RELAX! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING... YET.

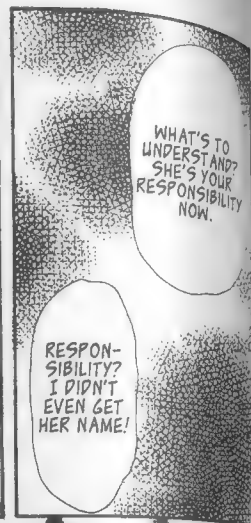
KYU!



MM?



DETECTIVE,
SHE'S NOT
INTERESTED IN
YOUR NAME.
CAN I MAKE
THIS ANY
CLEARER FOR
YOU?



WHAT'S TO
UNDERSTAND?
SHE'S YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY
NOW.

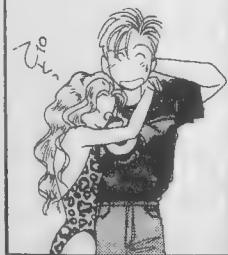
RESPON-
SIBILITY?
I DIDN'T
EVEN GET
HER NAME!



WELL, WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST SAY SO,
YOU SLY DOG, YOU?!

HUH?
OH!!!

YEEAAH... HE'S
JEALOUS!



GLAD TO
HEAR IT!
WELL, LOOK
AT THE TIME!

I MUST
GET
GOING!
CIAO!!



D, WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON? THIS GIRL
SEEMS LIKE SHE
HAS SOME
SERIOUS
ISSUES.



BUT...
IT'S
TOO
LATE
NOW.

NOW SHE
ONLY HAS
EYES FOR
YOU, MY
DEAR
DETECTIVE.

OKAY...



NO! I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...

YOU
SHOULD
BE
HONORED.

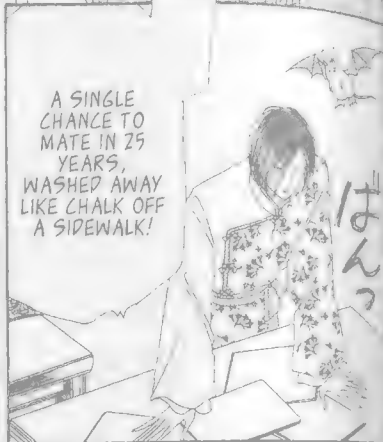


SHE'S JUST
FORWARD.

ONCE SHE
LAID EYES ON
YOU, SHE
WAS LOST TO
ANYONE ELSE.



IF YOU'D AWAKENED
ONLY A FEW
MINUTES
EARLIER...

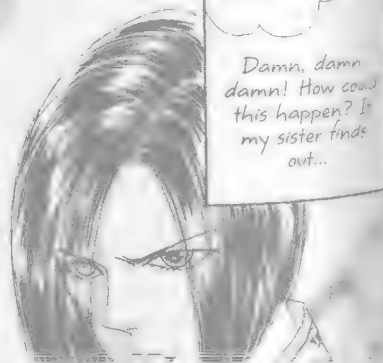


A SINGLE
CHANCE TO
MATE IN 25
YEARS,
WASHED AWAY
LIKE CHALK OFF
A SIDEWALK!



WAIT A MINUTE...

ALL THIS
WAS
UNEXPEC-
TED, BUT
WE CAN
STILL GET
WHAT WE
WANT.



WHERE
WERE
YOU
BORN?

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?
HOW OLD
ARE YOU?

I'M A
DETECTIVE.

I'M LEON.

OH,
MAN...

HMM
...



D!!

GODDAMMIT!
HE'S
MESSING
WITH MY
HEAD AGAIN!

WHAT'S THIS?
A FLOWER?

DAMN,
SHE'S HOT!
TO THINK I WAS
INTRODUCED TO HER
BY COUNT D! AND
HERE I THOUGHT
HE JUST
SOLD PETS!

WHOA, EASY!
ON SECOND THOUGHT,
I'M NOT SURPRISED
D HAD HER AROUND.
'CUZ THIS GIRL IS
AN ANIMAL! ♡

HEY, D!
I'M
TALKIN'
TO YOU!

!!

AND WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS
WEIRD
DUST ALL
OVER ME?!

HEY, COUNT!
IT'S NOT MY
FAULT SHE
FELL FOR ME,
SO QUIT
ACTING SO
DAMN
JEALOUS!

WHAT
THE
HELL?!

DAMMIT
WHERE'D
SHE GO?

CALL ME,
OKAY?!

WHAT
?!

UH
...

HI...

YOU
HEAR...
ME...?

IN SICKNESS...

...AND IN HEALTH...

EVEN IF DEATH DO US PART,
NOTHING WILL BREAK OUR
ETERNAL VOW...

WAIT A MINUTE!
ANOTHER ONE?
WHAT THE...?
AWW, HELL!
WHO CARES!

REMOVE MY
PETALS AND
EXPOSE THE
TREASURE
THAT LIES
WITHIN.

I WAS
BORN
INTO THIS
WORLD TO
PLEASURE
YOU.

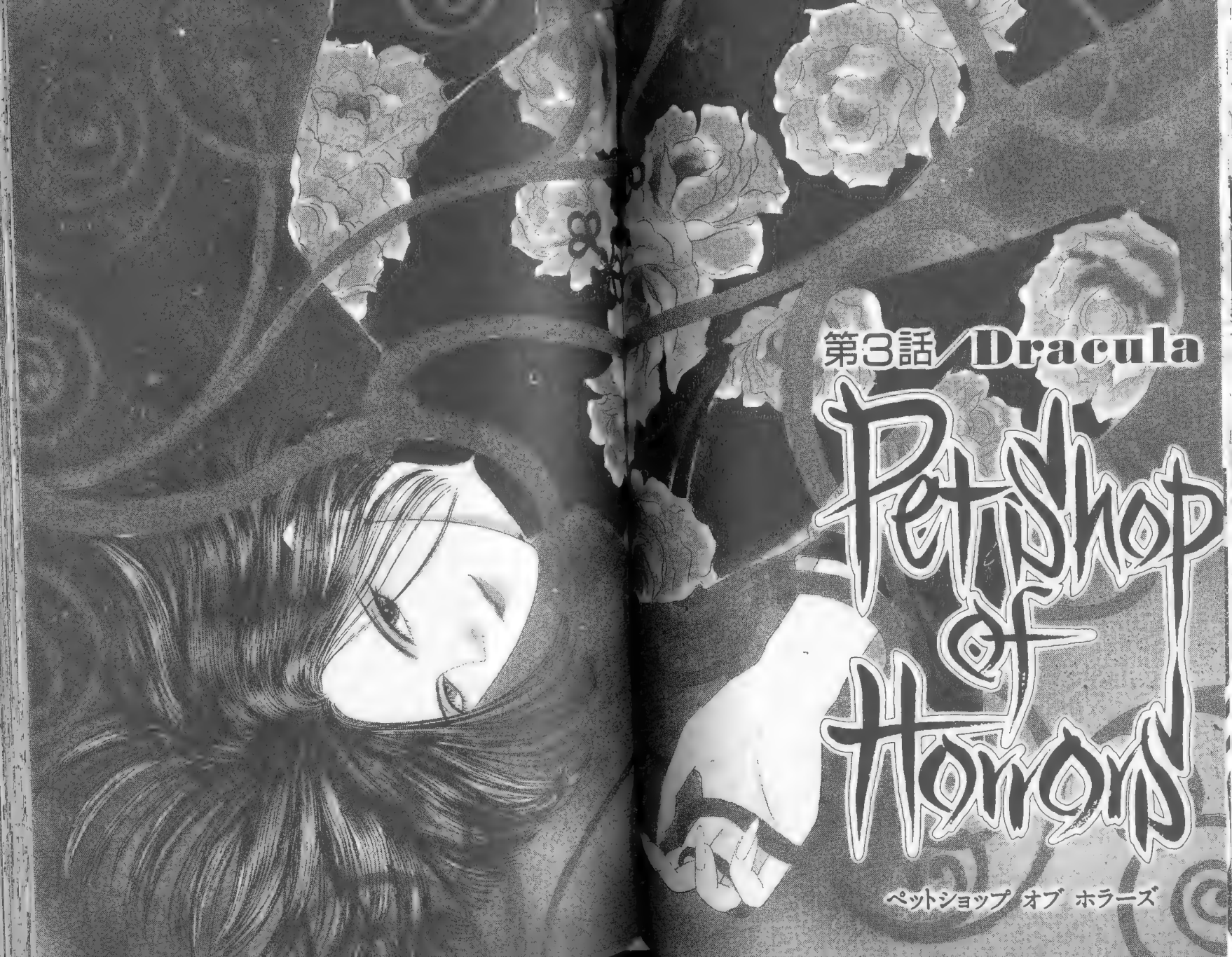
FOR ONE
NIGHT, I
AM YOURS
TO LOVE.

IF ONLY
ANIMALS
WERE AS
EASY TO
BREED AS
FLOWERS...

I SHOULD
AT LEAST
MAKE HIM
SOME TEA.

POOR
DETECTIVE...
HE'S IN FOR
ONE NASTY
MORNING
AFTER.

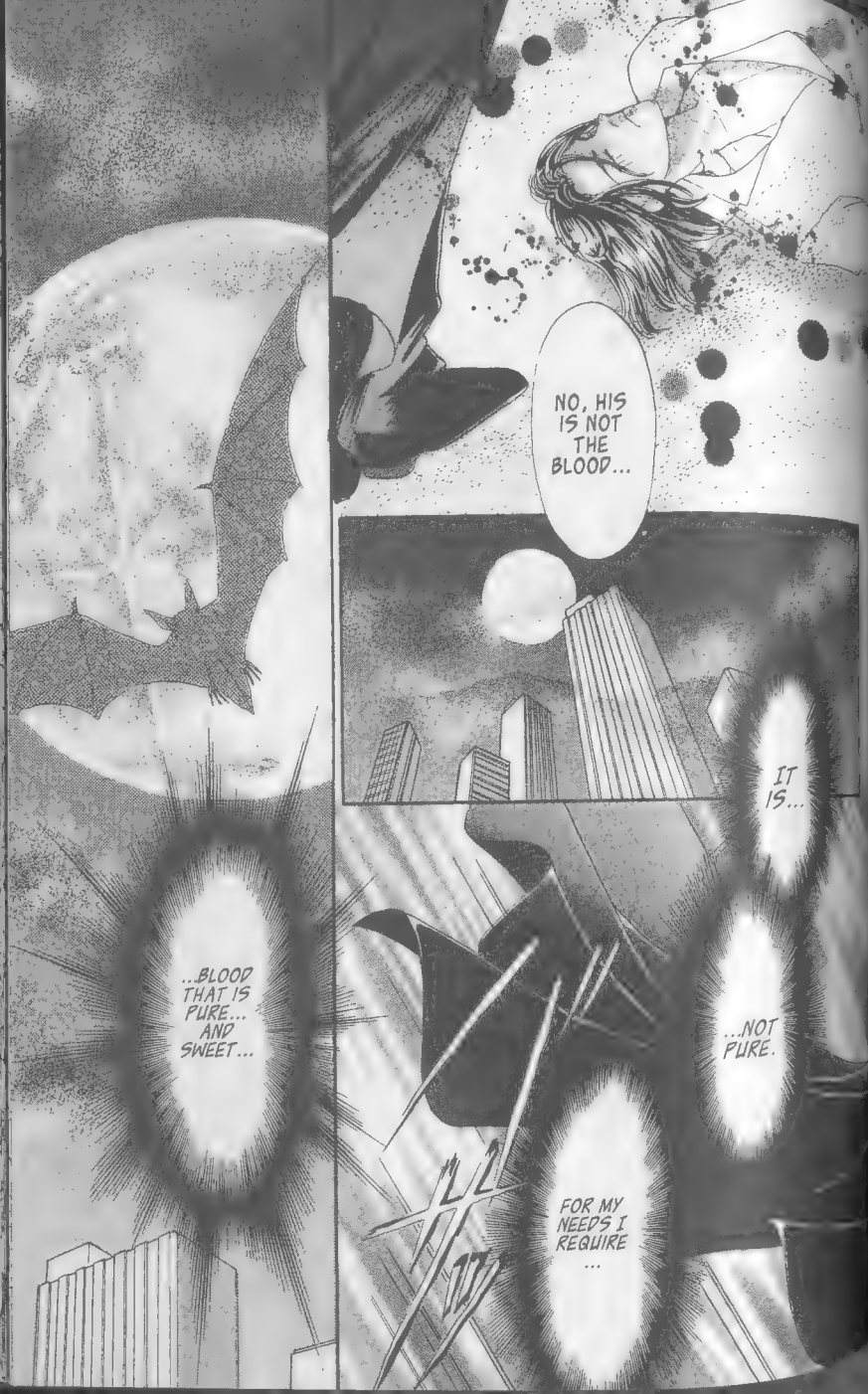
The End



第3話 / Dracula

Petshop of Horrors

ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ



NO, HIS
IS NOT
THE
BLOOD...

IT
IS...

...BLOOD
THAT IS
PURE...
AND
SWEET...

...NOT
PURE.

FOR MY
NEEDS I
REQUIRE
...



MMMM...
OOOOH...

N-NO...

HUH?

COUNT D'S UNDER
INVESTIGATION
FOR DRUG
TRAFFICKING,
SLAVE TRADING,
COUNTLESS
REPORTS OF
VANDALISM...
EVEN INCITING A
RIOT!

WHY SHOULD
I WASTE MY
TIME
GUARDING A
PIECE OF
SHIT LIKE D?

WAIT A
FUCKING
MINUTE!

STOP
DAYDREAMING
LEON

AS I WAS SAYING,
OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS
PROTECTING THE MOST
LIKELY TARGETS. MAYBE
WE CAN CATCH A BREAK.
DETECTIVE ORCOT, I
WANT YOU TO GUARD
COUNT D.

MAYBE
BECAUSE
HE'S THE
PERFECT
BAIT?

HELLO,
NORMA.

DAILY TIMES

SERIAL KILLER
TERRORIZES
12 Killed To Date

NO
DESCRIPTION
OF THE PERP.

NO
WITNESSES.

NO EVIDENCE.

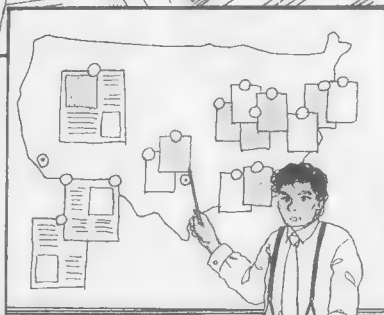
WE HAVE NO
LEADS,
SHORT OF
HIS CHOICE
OF VICTIMS.

THE GUY ONLY
KILLS ASIAN
MEN, USUALLY IN
THEIR TWENTIES
OR EARLY
THIRTIES. EVERY
ONE OF THEM
FOUND
ACCOMPANIED
BY A PET, AND
EVERY ONE OF
THEM DRAINED
OF BLOOD.

OUR BEST BET--
AND I REALIZE
IT'S SHIT--IS TO
GATHER A LIST OF
GANG BANGERS AND
BAGGERS. THE
MOST LIKELY
ONE--MS. IS
HERE A PROBLEM,
ORCOT?

L.A. TIMES
VAMPIRISM
IN LOS ANGELES!

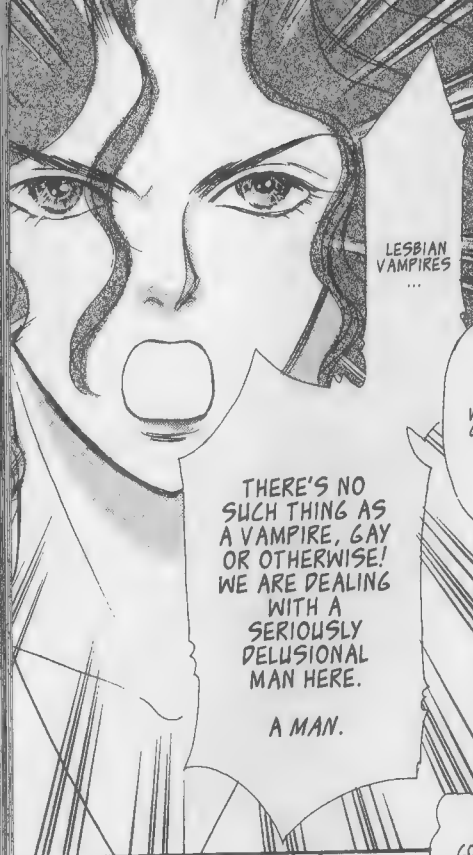
Fiction Becomes Fact on the Streets of



THAT'S
THREE IN
NEW YORK,
AND TWO
IN WASHING-
TON.

THE INCIDENTS
MIGRATED
DOWN THE
EAST COAST
TO ATLANTA,
THEN SPREAD
WEST TO
DALLAS.

THEY'RE
CALLING HIM
"THE
VAMPIRE,"
AND IT'S ONLY
A MATTER OF
TIME TILL THE
SON OF A
BITCH
ARRIVES
HERE.



LESBIAN
VAMPIRES

THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS
A VAMPIRE, GAY
OR OTHERWISE!
WE ARE DEALING
WITH A
SERIOUSLY
DELUSIONAL
MAN HERE.

A MAN.



IF IT WERE A
REAL VAMPIRE,
IT WOULD HAVE
SINED PLENTY OF
OTHER VAMPS BY
NOW. WE'D BE
OVERRUN WITH
BLOODSUCKERS!

OF
COURSE

A LESBIAN
WOULDN'T BE
GOING AFTER
MEN.

A VAMPIRE
WOULDN'T BE
DRINKING THE
BLOOD OF
ANYONE BUT
VIRGINS!

MAYBE IT'S
A LESBIAN
VAMPIRE.

THAT'S
QUITE
ENOUGH!

OF
COURSE,
AGENT
LANGLEY.



What's her
problem?



A MAN, EH?



What's
her
problem?

FBI
VAMPIRES...
IT'S LIKE
THE X-
FILES!

YOUR
NAME'S
LANGLEY!
AND YOU
WORK FOR
THE FBI?

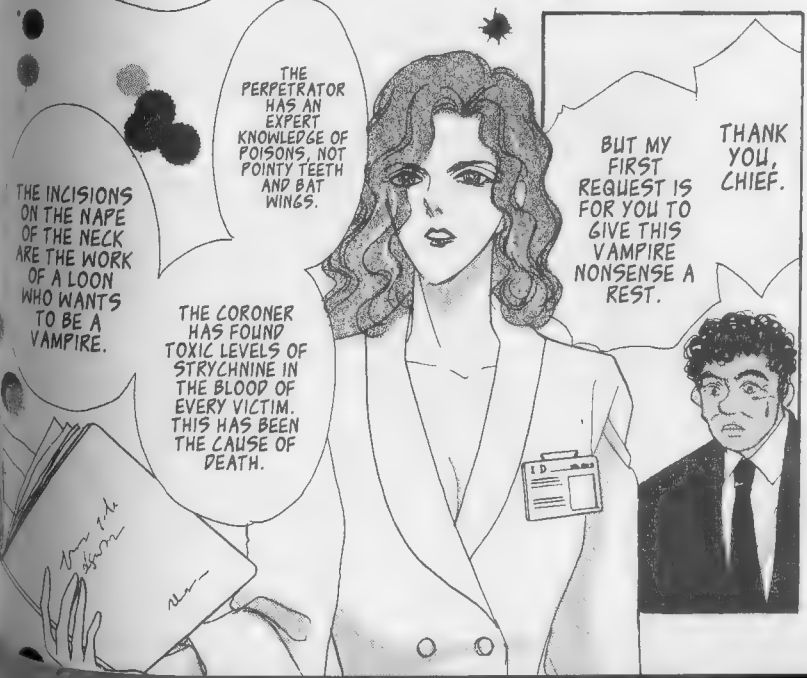
WAIT

DETECTIVES,
THIS IS
AGENT
NORMA
LANGLEY...
FROM THE
FBI.



AGENT
LANGLEY'S
BEEN SENT
HERE TO
APPREHEND
THE
VAMPIRE.

I EXPECT
YOUR FULL
COOPERATION
WITH HER. AND
THAT MEANS
YOU TOO,
ORCOT.



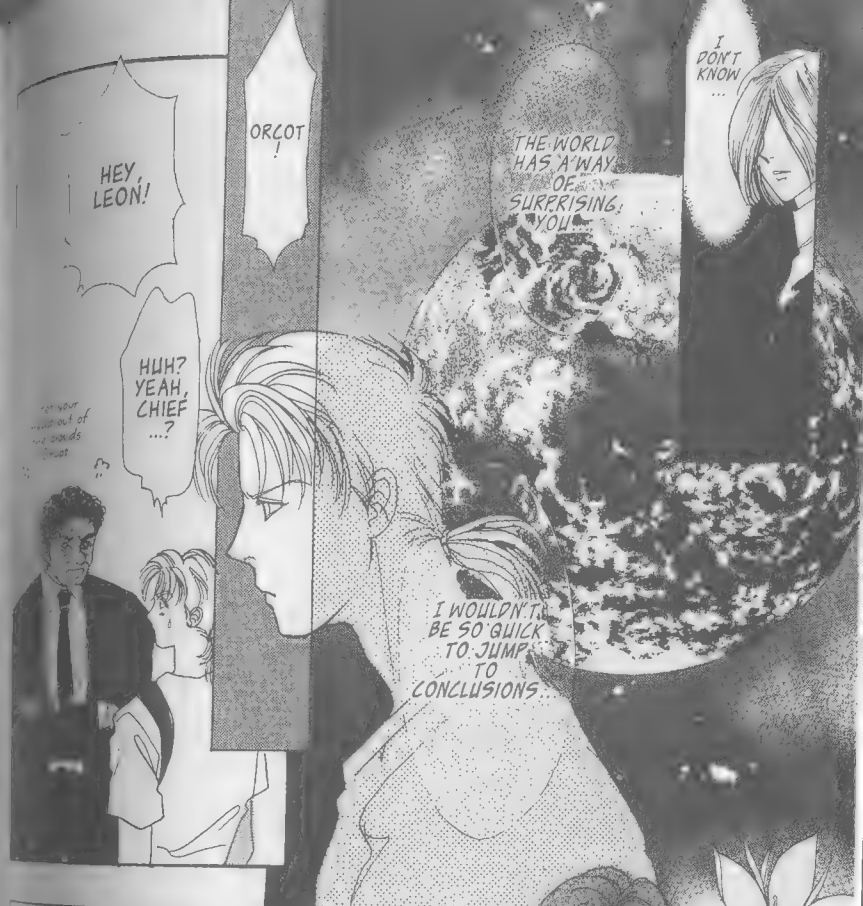
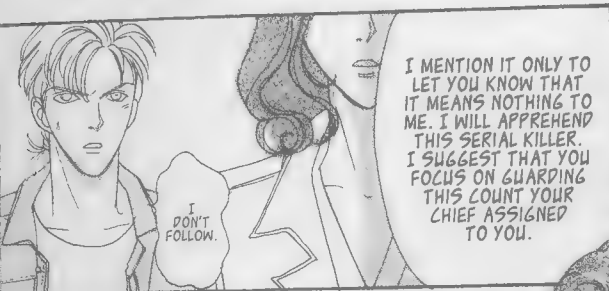
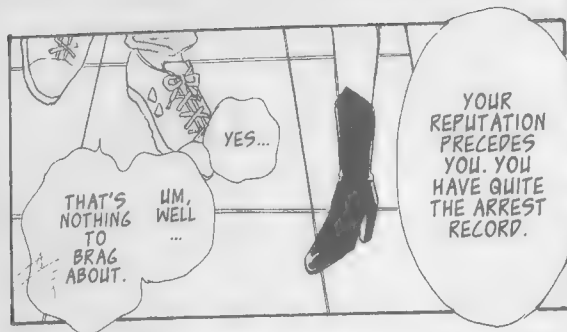
THE
PERPETRATOR
HAS AN
EXPERT
KNOWLEDGE OF
POISONS, NOT
POINTY TEETH
AND BAT
WINGS.

THE CORONER
HAS FOUND
TOXIC LEVELS OF
STRYCHNINE IN
THE BLOOD OF
EVERY VICTIM.
THIS HAS BEEN
THE CAUSE OF
DEATH.

BUT MY
FIRST
REQUEST IS
FOR YOU TO
GIVE THIS
VAMPIRE
NONSENSE A
REST.

THANK
YOU,
CHIEF.







SO
YOU'RE
THE
THIRD!!

OH,
HO,
HO...

AH,
COUNT D...
I'VE WAITED
SO LONG...

MMM
...

THE PITCH
BACK HAIR,
THOSE
GLITTERING
OBSIDIAN
EYES, THAT
IVORY SKIN...

JUST
LIKE
THE
COUNT
WHEN
HE WAS
YOUNG.

I'M
SIMPLY
RUNNING
THE PLACE
WHILE--

I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL HAVE
TO WAIT A
BIT LONGER.
I'M NOT THE
COUNT...

WHAT
CAN I
DO FOR
YOU?

WHAT
...

IF YOU ARE
INDEED THE
SUCCESSOR
TO THE
COUNT D
LINE...

I'VE COME
TONIGHT TO
FULFILL AN
OATH MADE
60 YEARS
AGO.

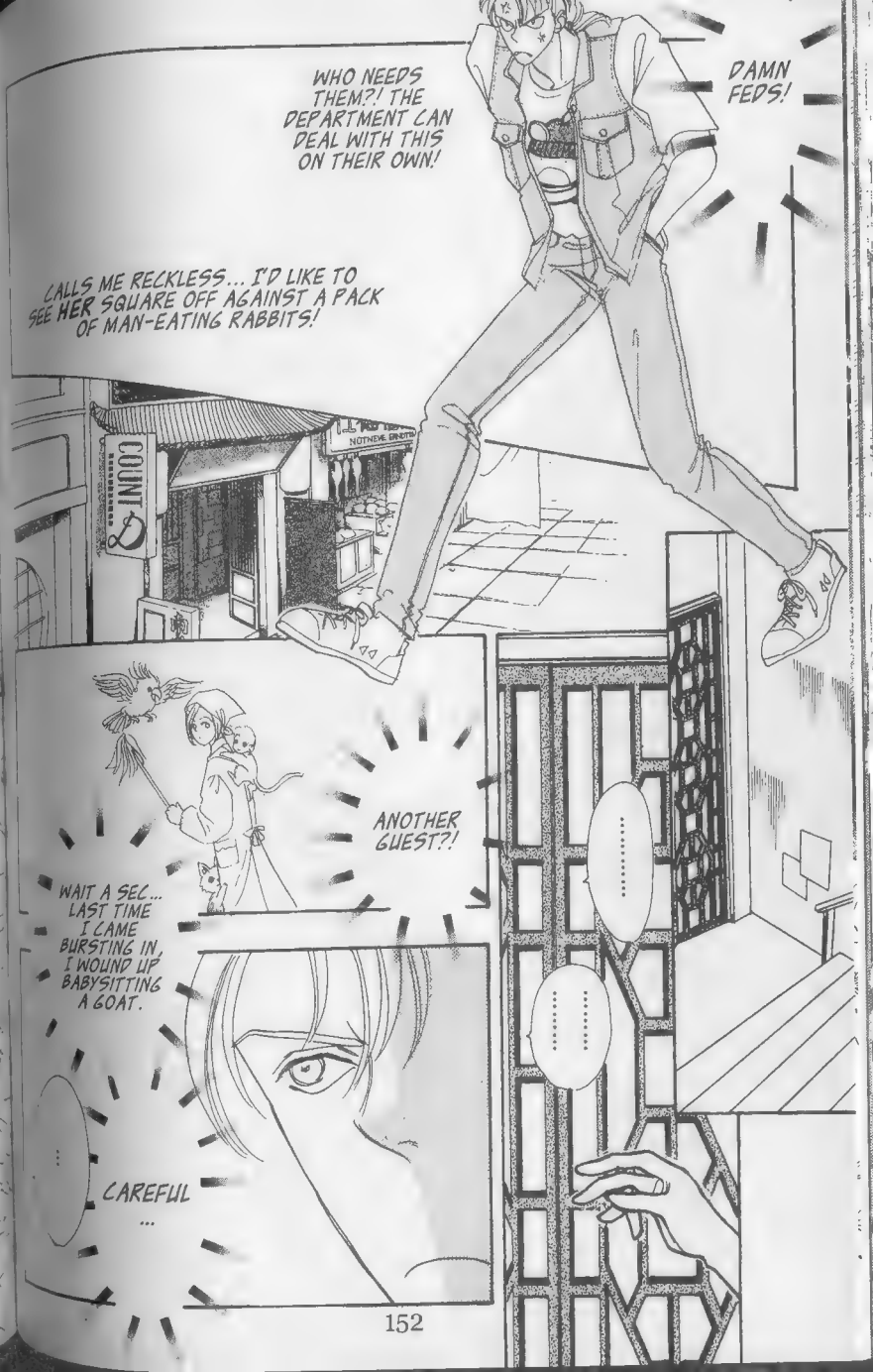
THEN
YOU
ALREADY
KNOW
WHY I'M
HERE.

PLEASE,
THIS IS
INSANITY...

AH!!

THAT
SOUNDED
LIKE A
SCREAM!

WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



WHO NEEDS
THEM?! THE
DEPARTMENT CAN
DEAL WITH THIS
ON THEIR OWN!

DAMN
FEDS!

CALLS ME RECKLESS... I'D LIKE TO
SEE HER SQUARE OFF AGAINST A PACK
OF MAN-EATING RABBITS!

COUNT
D

ANOTHER
GUEST?!

WAIT A SEC...
LAST TIME
I CAME
BURSTING IN,
I WOUND UP
BABYSITTING
A GOAT.

CAREFUL
...



THAT'S
THE WAY
IT IS.

I SEE...

SMACK

AH, SO
YOU'RE THE
COUNT'S...?

WHAT
IS?

SHHH!

THE
COUNT'S
WHAT?
AHH!

WELL,
THEN I
STILL
HAVE A
CHANCE.

WRONG
IDEA?

VERY WELL,
THEN. IT
IS TIME
FOR ME TO
BID YOU
FAREWELL.

I WAS JUST
FOOLING
AROUND.
NO HARD
FEELINGS,
I HOPE.

What a
shame...

HHA

Oh,
well...

COUNT, I
WILL WIN
YOUR
HEART.

HOLD ON!!
YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
IDEA.



WHAT
THE
FUCK?

I
SAID
...

NO
!!



MARQUIS
?!

MARQUIS
ALEXANDER
HANS VON
MOLDAVIA.

HE'S AN OLD
ACQUAINTANCE
OF MY
FATHER'S.

HOW DO YOU
KNOW THAT
GUY,
ANYWAY?

MY
HOW
SCARY.

THE
VAMPIRE
THAT'S THE
TALK OF THE
TABLOIDS.

GOD!

IT'S NOT
LIKE IT'S A
REAL
VAMPIRE

IT'S SOME
DELUSIONAL
PSYCHO
WITH A
THING FOR
POISONING
PEOPLE.

SO HE'S
NOT THE
SERIAL
KILLER?

KILLER
?

CONSIDERING
THE SORT OF
COMPANY
YOU KEEP...

YOU
PROBABLY
KNOW HIM.

NOW,
NOW...

What does
that
mean?!

MY, YOU ARE
A STUBBORN
ONE, MY
DEAR
DETECTIVE.

KEEP ME
OUT OF
YOUR
LITTLE
LOVE
TRIANGLE!

I OWED YOU A
FAVOR AFTER
YOU HELPED
ME SOLVE THE
MEADOW CASE.
CONSIDER IT
REPAID.

BI! GAY!
WHATEVER!!
ALL I KNOW IS
IT'S GOT
NOTHING TO
DO WITH ME!!

WELL, TO BE
FAIR, HE'S
MORE BI THAN
GAY...

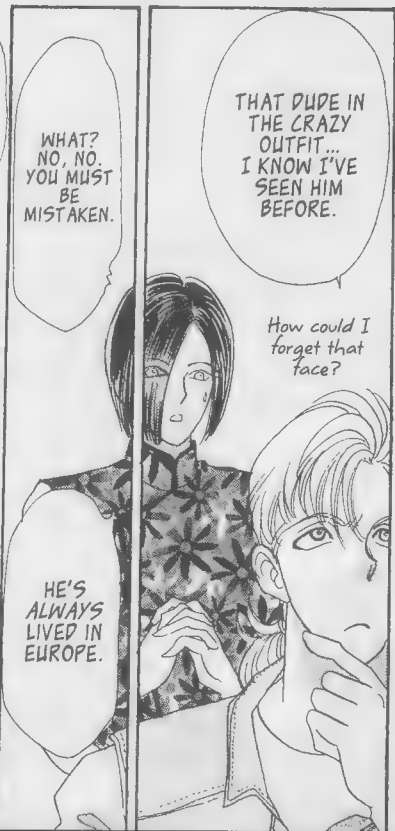
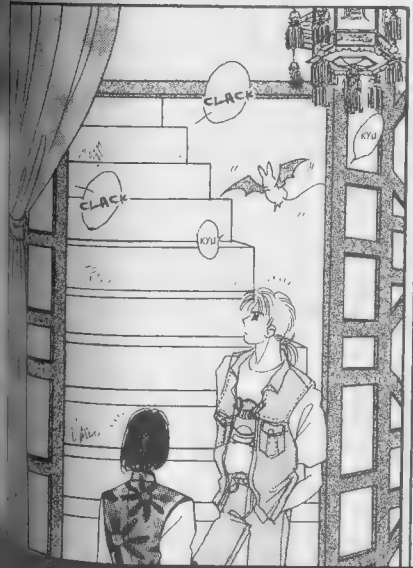
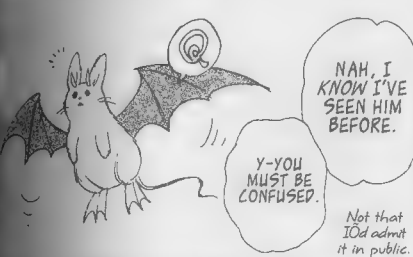
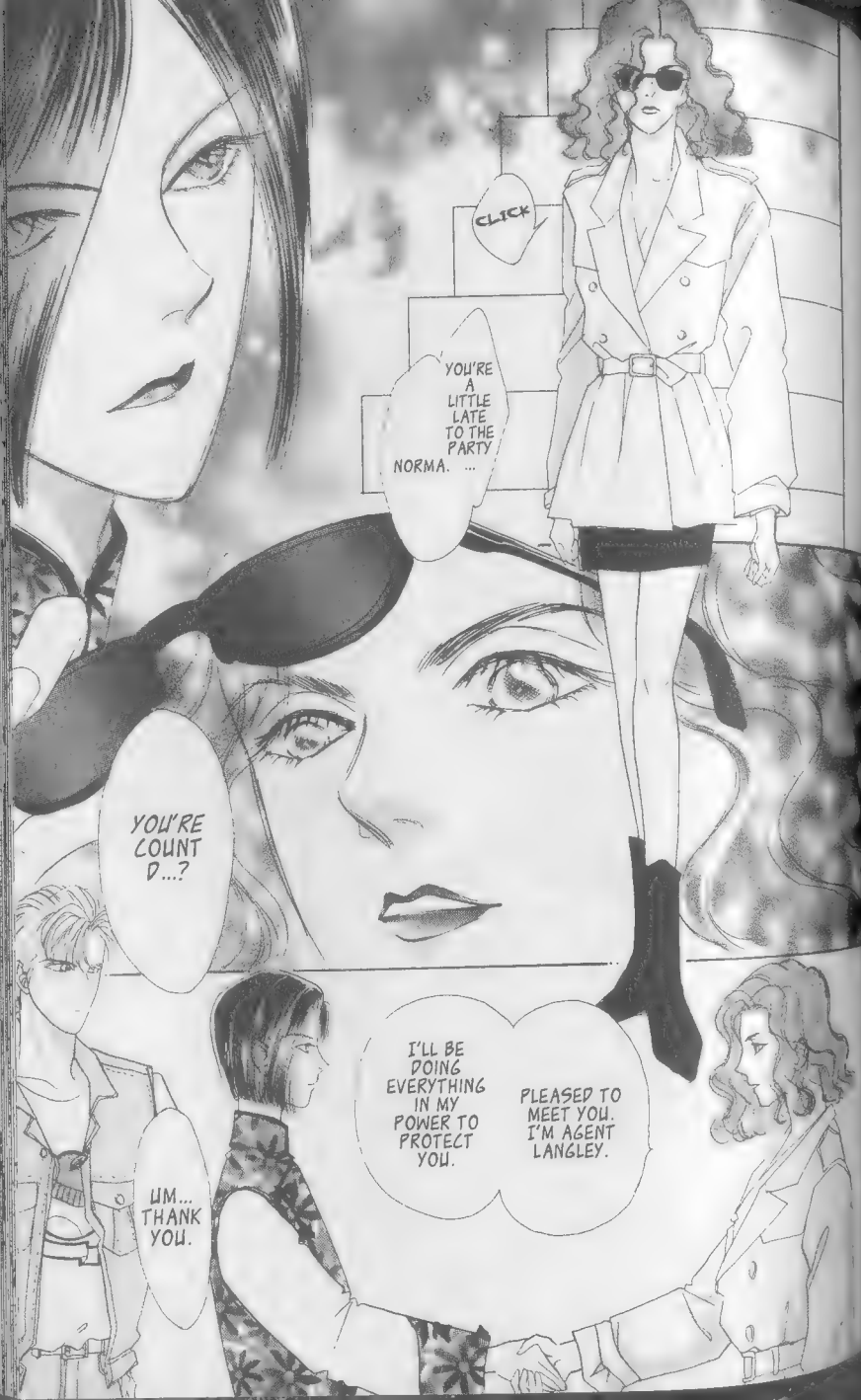
WHAT'S WITH
THE GAY
GUY?!

WHA?!

FARE-
WELL!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA...

WHERE DID
HE ROBES
COME
FROM?





SOMETHING
ON YOUR
MIND?

IT'S
NOTHING.

LOOKS LIKE THE BUREAU'S
BEEN HOLDING OUT ON US.



I'VE FINALLY
LAID MY EYES
ON YOU,
COUNT D.

5000...

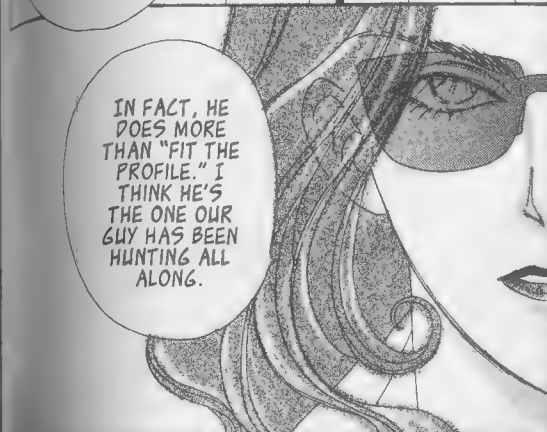
He didn't
seem that
suspicious
though...

IT WAS
THAT GUY
FROM
EARLIER!

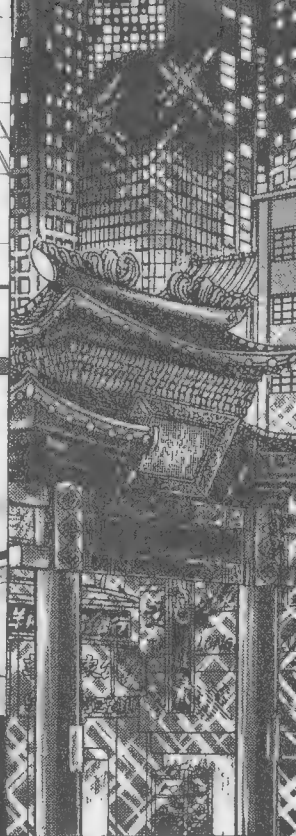


WELL, HE
DEFINITELY
FITS THE
VICTIM
PROFILE.

SO
THAT'S
THE
PERP'S
PRIMARY
TARGET.



IN FACT, HE
DOES MORE
THAN "FIT THE
PROFILE." I
THINK HE'S
THE ONE OUR
GUY HAS BEEN
HUNTING ALL
ALONG.



JUST
WATCH...

JUST
WATCH...

JUST
WATCH...

Why does this
shit always
happen to
me?

WHAT
THE
FUCK?



I'LL
PROTECT
COUNT D.
JUST KEEP
YOUR EYES
OPEN!

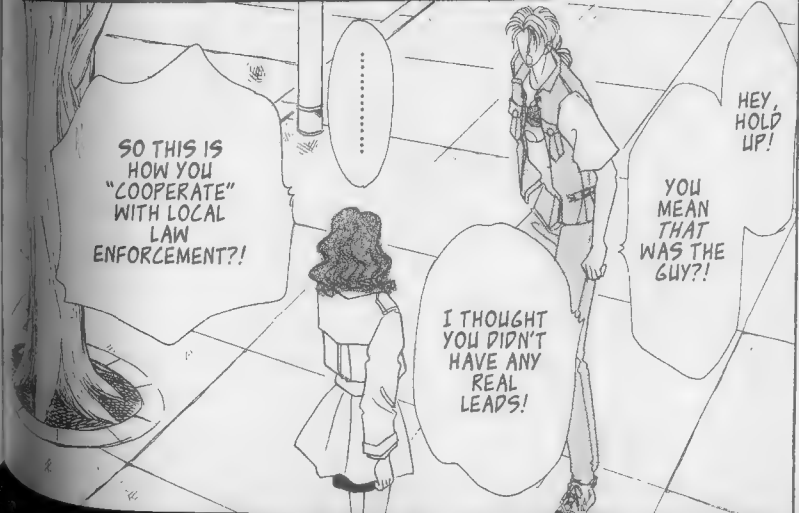
WE'LL KEEP
COUNT D IN THE
OPEN A LITTLE
LONGER.
HOPEFULLY, WE
CAN LURE THE
PERPETRATOR
OUT.

SURVEILLANCE
HAS TO BE
TIGHT.

GOD, GIVE
US A LITTLE
CREDIT,
LADY!



?!



SO THIS IS
HOW YOU
"COOPERATE"
WITH LOCAL
LAW
ENFORCEMENT?!

HEY,
HOLD
UP!

YOU
MEAN
THAT
WAS THE
GUY?!

I THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
REAL
LEADS!



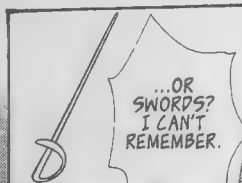


WHAT THE HELL?
YOU'RE ON,
BUDDY!
C'MON,
LET'S DUEL!



I
CHALLENGE
YOU TO A
DUEL!

A FAIR
CONTEST
OF SKILL!



...OR
SWORDS?
I CAN'T
REMEMBER.

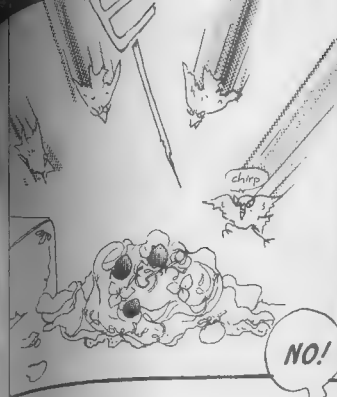


WAIT, DO
YOU DUEL
WITH
GUNS...



FUCK IT,
WE'LL
SETTLE
THIS MANO
A MANO!!

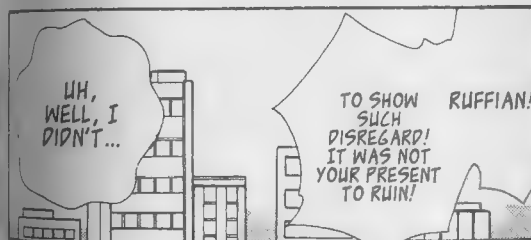
J. PRIEST



NO!



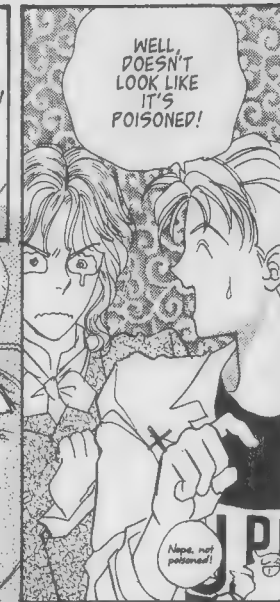
AH!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!



UH,
WELL, I
DIDN'T...

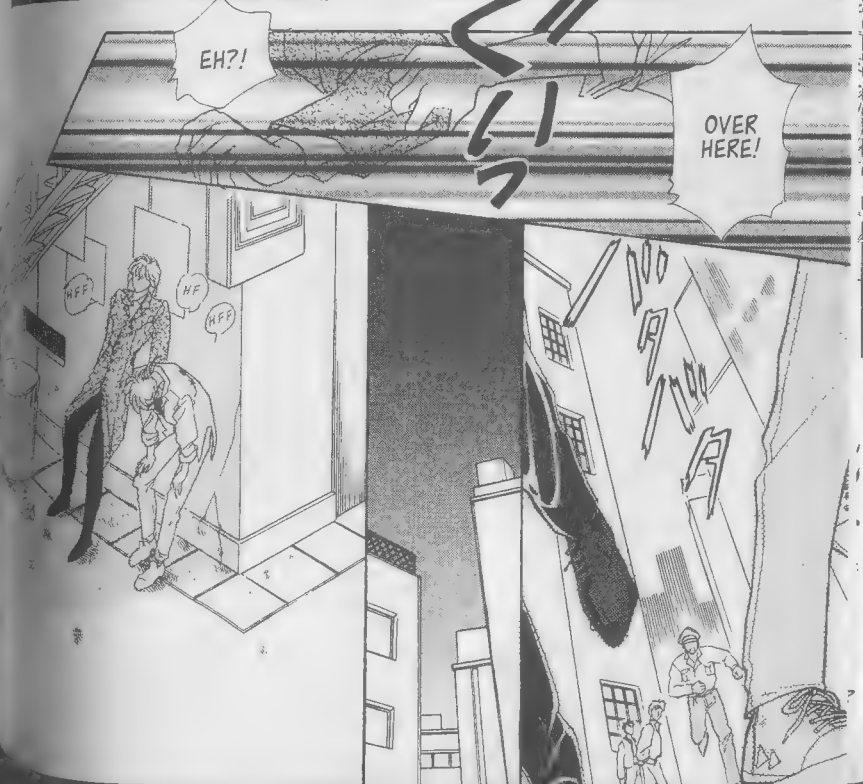
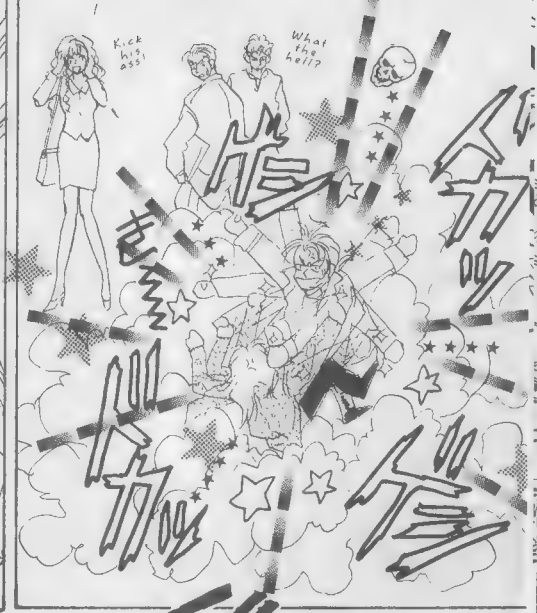
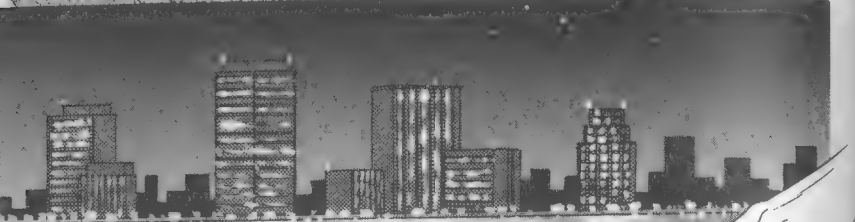
TO SHOW
SUCH
DISREGARD!
IT WAS NOT
YOUR PRESENT
TO RUIN!

RUFFIAN!



WELL,
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
IT'S
POISONED!

Alone, not
poisoned!





IT AIN'T
COUNT D.
TRUST ME
ON THAT.

BUT YOU'VE
DECIDED
YOU MIGHT
MEET A
MAN LIKE
HER?



NO...

I'LL
NEVER
MEET
ANOTHER
WOMAN
LIKE HER
AGAIN.

I'LL
NEVER
LOVE LIKE
THAT
AGAIN.

Must
mean D's
father...

COUNT D
WAS
THOROUGHLY
OPPOSED
TO MY
MARRIAGE TO
ISABELLE.

ACTUALLY
...

MARRIAGE
?!

YOU
MUST
BREAK
IT OFF.

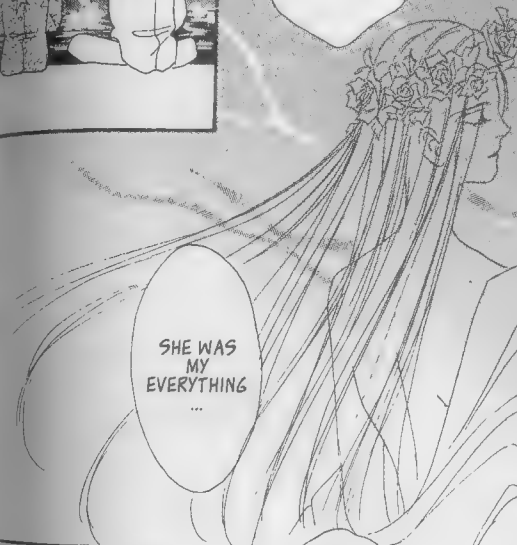


SOUNDS
LIKE A
DRINK IS IN
ORDER,
FRIEND!

I'M
SORRY
TO
HEAR
THAT.

SO YOU'RE
STILL IN
MOURNING?

ISABELLE
DIED LAST
YEAR.



SHE WAS
MY
EVERYTHING
...

ISABELLE
WAS
GORGEOUS
...

GENTLE...
WISE...

Poor guy's
had his
heart
broken.

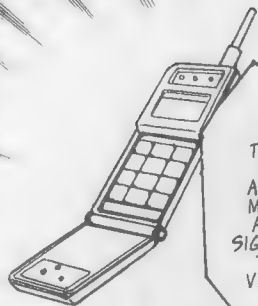
HEY,
YOU'RE
STILL
YOUNG!

WITHOUT
HER, I MIGHT
AS WELL BE
DEAD.

SO?

I MEAN, I
KNOW IT'S
HARD, BUT
THERE ARE
OTHER WOMEN
OUT THERE...





LEON!!

THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MURDER, AND ALL SIGNS POINT TO THE VAMPIRE.



BRRRING

YEAH?



WE HAD A GUARD ON HIM, BUT OFFICER CROMWELL TOOK A SHORT BREAK AND--

THE VICTIM'S A JAPANESE FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT

THE MURDER'S THE SAME.



SO THIS GUY'S INNOCENT !!



30 MINUTES?

WHAT WAS THE TIME OF DEATH?

HMM... ABOUT 30 MINUTES AGO.



I PROMISE YOU THAT THIS LOVE WILL END.

BUT LOOK FOR ME AFTER YOU HAVE MOURNED FOR TWENTY YEARS...

EVEN IF DEATH DO US PART...

...NOTHING WILL BREAK OUR ETERNAL VOW.

...AND I WILL EASE YOUR SUFFERING.

COUNT D IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME NOW.

I PROMISE YOU A NEW BEGINNING...

PEACE AND HAPPINESS EVER-LASTING...



SORRY, FRIEND!
HAVE TO
MOTOR!

LET'S
DO THIS
AGAIN
SOME-
TIME.





CLASH

I KNOW THEY
CALL YOU THE
THIRD, BUT I
PREFER
THINGS ONE
ON ONE.

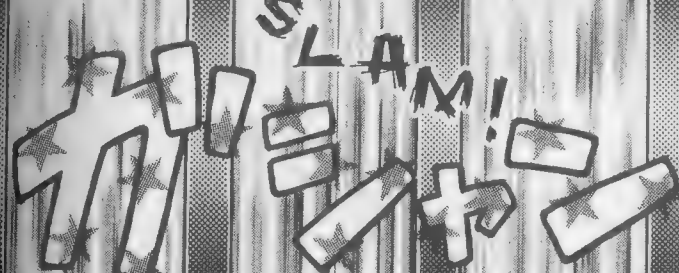


YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU
COULD USE
SOME
COMPANY.



THREE'S
A
CROWD,
YOU
KNOW.

AND WITH
YOU HERE,
HE'S
DEFINITELY
ON HIS
WAY.



WHAT DO
YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?!

THIS IS A
GROSS ABUSE
OF YOUR
AUTHORITY!
I DEMAND TO
SPEAK WITH
YOUR
SUPERIOR!!

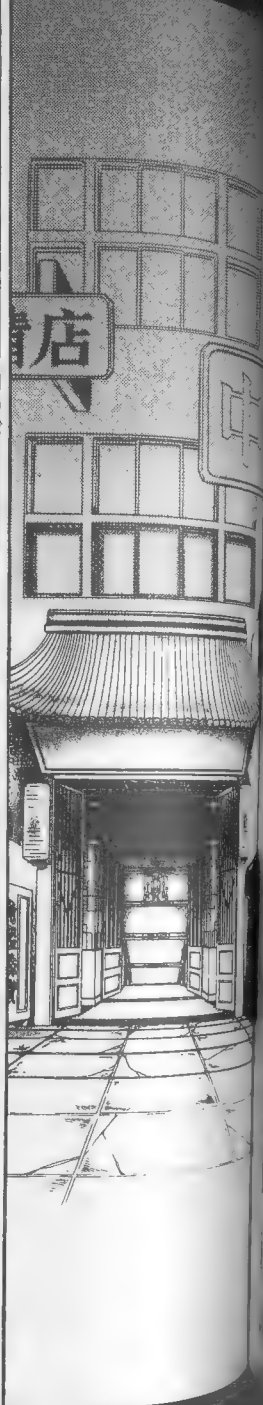
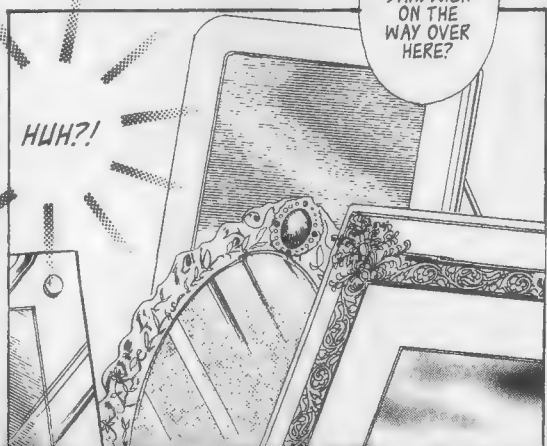
I TOLD YOU I
WASN'T GOING
TO STOP TILL
YOU WERE
BEHIND BARS.
TOO BAD
THIS ISN'T
PERMANENT.

COUNT,
PLEASE SHUT
THE FUCK UP.
THIS IS THE
SAFEST PLACE
FOR YOU TO BE
RIGHT NOW.



NOW
BEHAVE! I
HAVE A BAD
GUY TO
CATCH!!





BULL-
SHIT.

IMMORTAL,
MY ASS.

THE ONLY
THING THAT'S
IMMORTAL IS
ELVIS.

IMMORTAL
...

IMMORTAL
MONSTERS
LIVING IN
THE
DARKNESS
OF NIGHT...

DRINK
THE
BLOOD OF
VIRGINS
TO
REMAIN
YOUNG.

VAMP-
IRES,
THEY...

I KNEW I HAD SEEN HIM
SOMEWHERE BEFORE!

WAIT... PR

MARQUIS
ALEXANDER
VON...
SOMETHING
OR OTHER.

THAT'S
HIM,
ISN'T
IT?!

THE COUNT
SAID THAT
WAS HIS
GRANDFATHER.

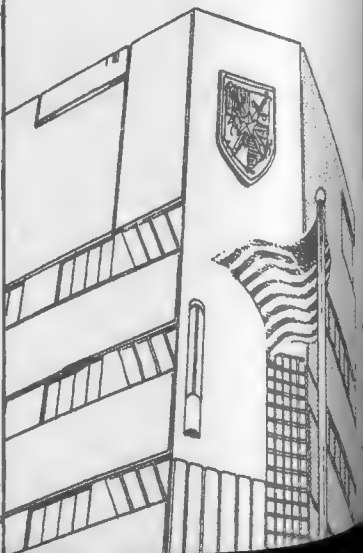
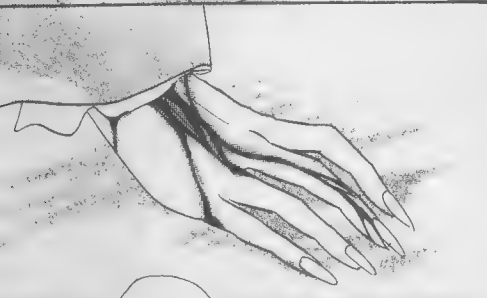
Berlin
1938.

THAT GUY
MUST BE
ALEXANDER'S
GRANDFATHER
TOO.

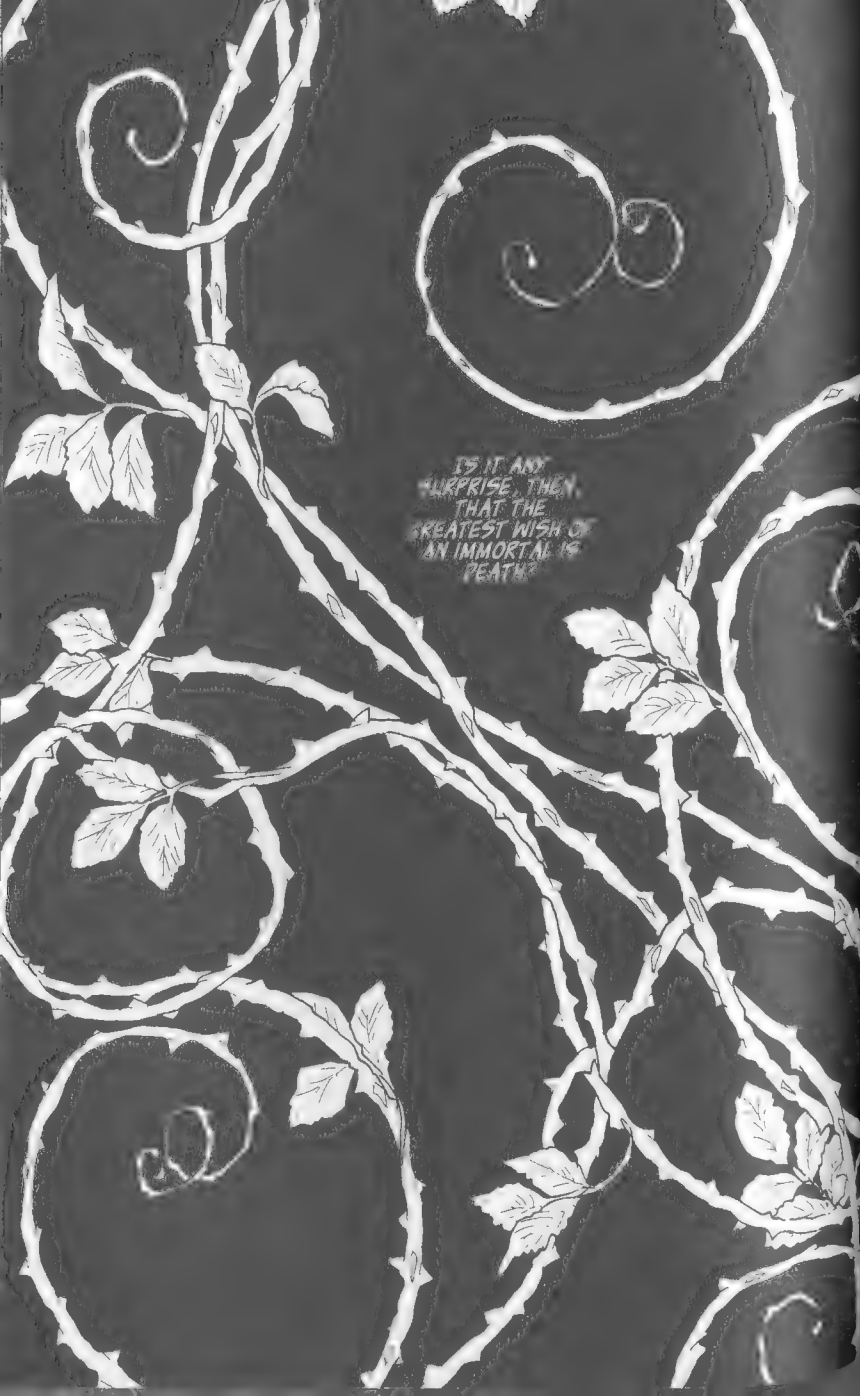
Berlin
1938.

QUITE A
COINCIDENCE--
RESEMBLANCES
THAT STRONG IN
TWO FAMILIES.

VAMPIRES
...







IS IT ANY
SURPRISE, THEN,
THAT THE
GREATEST WISH OF
AN IMMORTAL IS
DEATH?



IMMORTALITY
BRINGS WITH
IT GREAT
KNOWLEDGE
AND POWER...

...AND SUFFERING...

ETERNITY CAN SEEM
DREADFULLY LONG
TO THE BEREAVED.

NORMA
...

IDIOT! THAT
WOMAN WAS
NOTHING
SHORT OF
INSUFFERABLE!

HELL IS
PERFECT FOR
HER! IN FACT,
IF SHE IS IN
HELL, SHE'S
PROBABLY
RUNNING THE
PLACE BY NOW!

SHE WAS
JEALOUS,
PETTY,
STUBBORN,
AND FAR
TOO LOOSE
WITH HER
TIME.

AND DID YOU
SEE HER FACE
BEFORE SHE
DIED? SHE
WAS A HAG!

NORMA
...

COUNT
D...

I
LOST
OUR
BET.

I THOUGHT THAT THEIR LOVE
WOULD GROW COLD AFTER
DEATH SEPARATED THEM.

I WAS NEVER
JEALOUS. I
WAS QUITE
CONSIDERATE,
ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED.

I WAS
ALWAYS
...

I WAS
ALWAYS
IN LOVE
WITH
HIM.

WHAT AN
AMAZING
MAN.

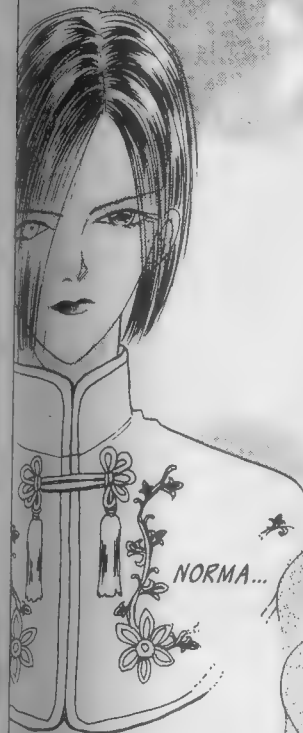
HE WAS WILLING
TO PURSUE AN
INSIGNIFICANT
HUMAN WOMAN,
EVEN THROUGH
THE GATES OF
HELL ITSELF.

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE
TRUE NATURE OF LOVE.
THE HEART IS THE
ULTIMATE MYSTERY.

NOT
HUMANS,
NOT
VAMPIRES...

NOT EVEN
ME.

WHY DID HE LOVE
ISABELLE?
IT'S A SECRET
KNOWN TO NO ONE.



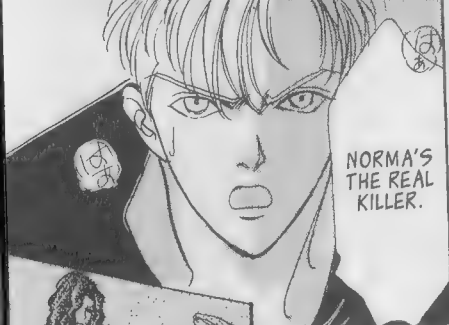
NORMA...

AN
ETERNITY
ON THIS
EARTH,
AND YOU
STILL
HAVEN'T
LEARNED.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

WHY DID
ALEXANDER
LOVE
ISABELLE...

WHEN HE
COULD HAVE
LOVED ME
INSTEAD?



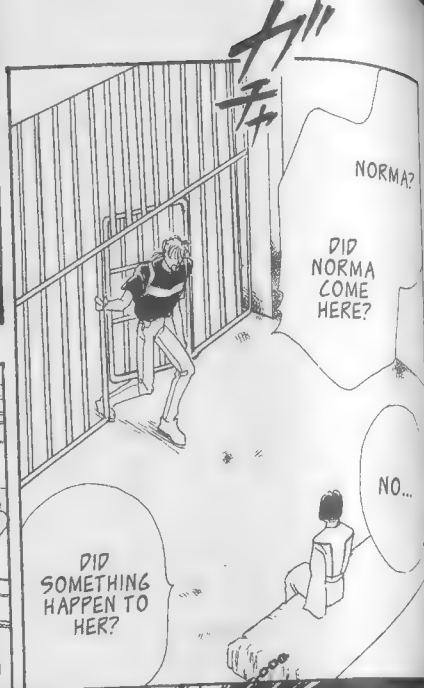
NORMA'S
THE REAL
KILLER.



SHE
DRUGGED
THE ENTIRE
STATION.
STRYCHNINE...
SHE USED A
LOW DOSE.



DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN TO
HER?



NORMA?

DID
NORMA
COME
HERE?

NO...

**SHE'S THE
VAMPIRE!
SHE MURDERED
ALL THOSE MEN!**



SO, TO HUNT DOWN
ALEXANDER...

...SHE INFILTRATED THE BUREAU,
AND CREATED A FAKE SERIAL
KILLER TO STEER ATTENTION
AWAY FROM HER.

HOW DO
YOU
KNOW
THIS?

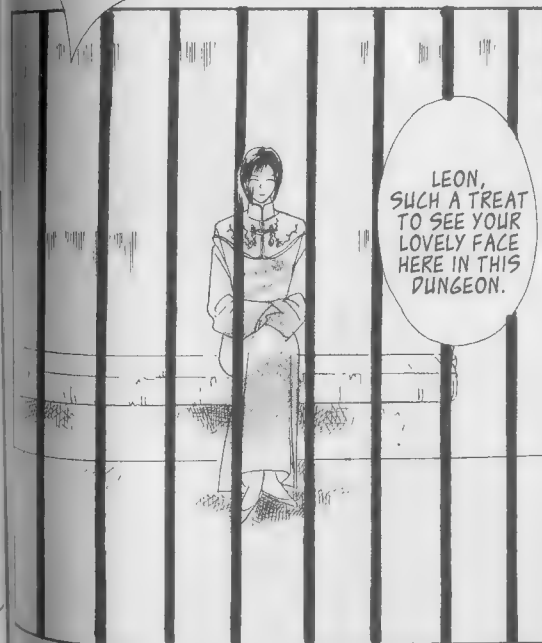
I CALLED THE FBI
TO ASK IF THEY
COULD SEND A
DIFFERENT AGENT.
IMAGINE MY
SURPRISE WHEN
THEY SAID THAT
THE REAL AGENT
LANGLEY WAS
KILLED IN THE LINE
OF DUTY LAST
YEAR.



HEY,
ANSWER
ME!!



D!



LEON,
SUCH A TREAT
TO SEE YOUR
LOVELY FACE
HERE IN THIS
DUNGEON.



D!!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE
YOU?

ALEX-
ANDER
...
YOUR
FATHER
...

AND
NORMA
...

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

YOU'RE
ACTING LIKE
YOU'VE SEEN
A GHOST.

HUH
?

PLEASE,
THEN...

...YOU NEED
A STAKE OR
A SILVER
BULLET...
DON'T YOU?

TO KILL
A
VAMPIRE
...

IF YOU
SHOOT ME
HERE WITH A
LEAD BULLET,
AND I DIE...

YOU CAN
PROVE THAT
I'M JUST AN
ORDINARY
HUMAN,
CAN'T YOU?

WHO
...
ARE
YOU
?!
...

IN THE END, DESPITE THE
BEST EFFORTS OF THE
FALSE AGENT LANGLEY
TO MISLEAD THE
INVESTIGATION, SHE
WAS FOUND OUT AND
FORCED ON THE RUN.

BUT WHILE SHE
HAS YET TO BE
APPREHENDED,
HER KILLING SPREE
DOES SEEM TO
HAVE COME TO AN END.



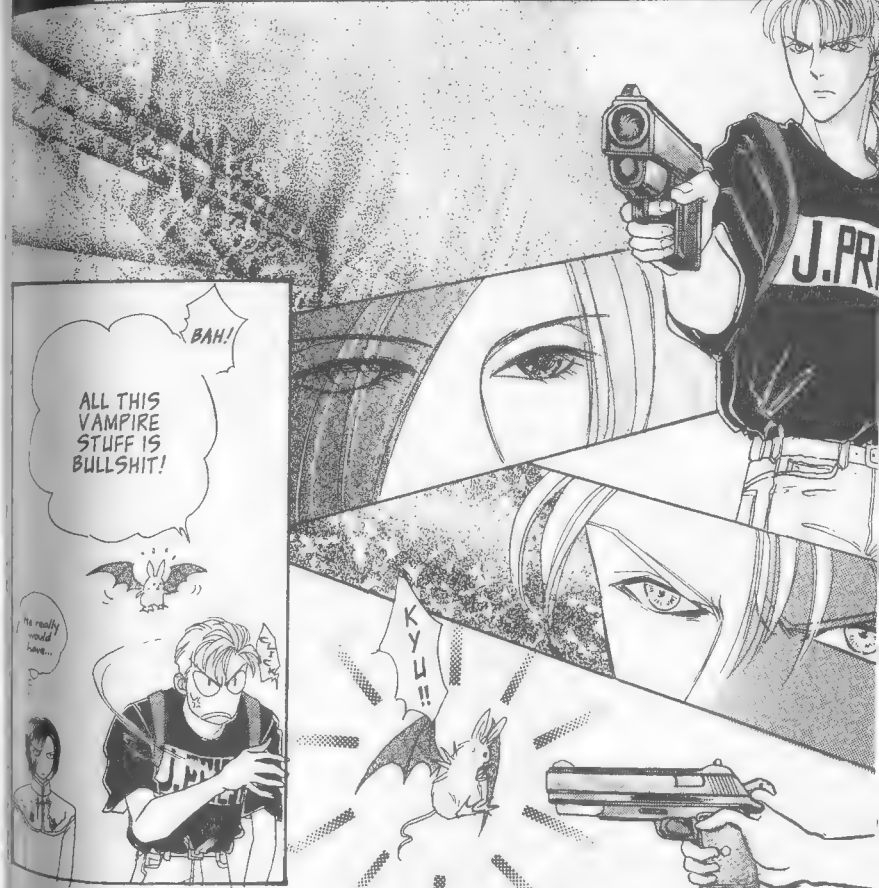
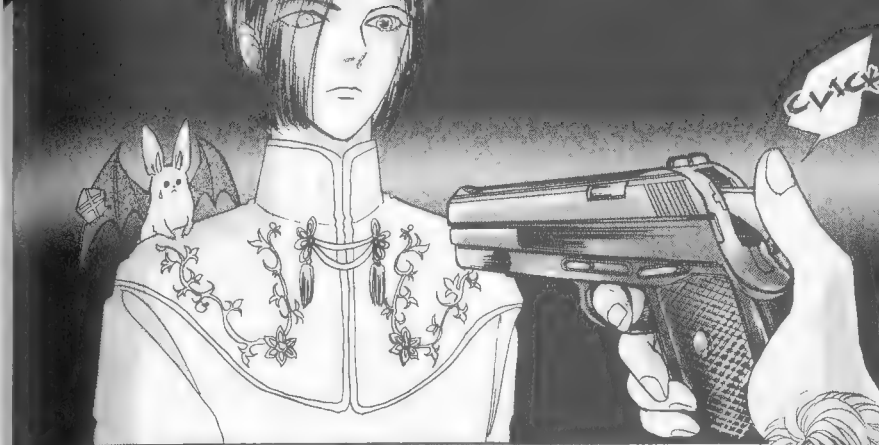
Hey,
Leon!
Poker
tonight?

I'VE GOT
TO QUIT
LETTING
THAT GUY
INTO MY
HEAD.

NORMA'S
NOT ON
THE RUN,
SHE TURNED
INTO A
BAT AND
FLEW OFF.

AND NOW
COUNT-D HAS
A NEW BAT IN
HIS SHOP.
IT CAN'T BE A
COINCIDENCE!

MAYBE I
JUST
IMAGINED
IT...



ALL THIS
VAMPIRE
STUFF IS
BULLSHIT!

BAH!

He really
could
move...

KYU!!

PEOPLE JUST LIKE TO TELL
STORIES, AND THE COUNT JUST
PLAYS ALONG WITH THEM. IT'S
HIS WAY OF DRUMMING UP
BUSINESS, AND I'M A FOOL FOR
EVEN WORRYING ABOUT IT. I
MEAN, WHAT WAS THAT LINE
FROM CHINATOWN AGAIN?

Forget it,
Jake. It's
Chinatown.

He still
doesn't see
them...

END OF EPISODE 3

ALMOST...

THAT GUY
WAS TOO BIG
A WUSS TO
BE A
VAMPIRE.

AND HE HIT
LIKE A GIRL.

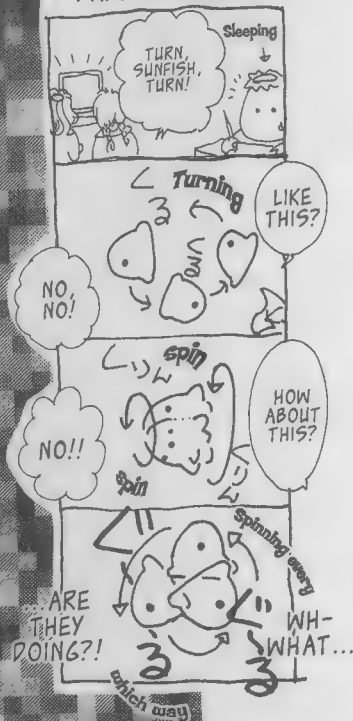
HE DRANK
BEER, NOT
BLOOD.

HE ALMOST
HAD ME
BELIEVING IN
VAMPIRES.

HE WAS NO MORE
OF A MONSTER
THAN I AM.

AND HIS
TEARS
CERTAINLY
SEEMED
NORMAL
ENOUGH.

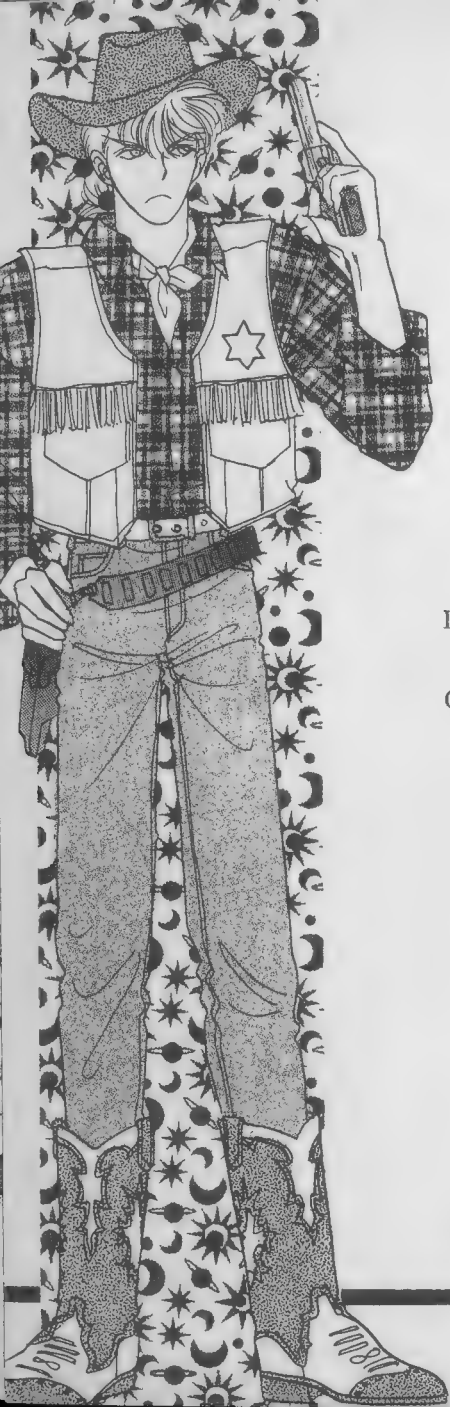
DANCING SUNFISH



There really are fish in computer games. "Aqua Zone" is one computer game that has virtual tropical fish in it. You get to adjust the water temperature and feed your fish. If you do it the wrong way, your fish can get sick and even die. But if you treat them as well as fish in a tank, they're fine.

Another one is "Aquanote's Vacation," a PlayStation game. Just like it sounds, it's about a workaholic father who decides to take time off. It's a simulation game about coastal exploration. It's also a shooting game. You have to either shoot or get out of the way of nasty fish when they appear on the screen.





I think vampire stories are like
cat stories. That's all.

Oh, and I think American beer
tastes bad too.

Dracula

Dark horse

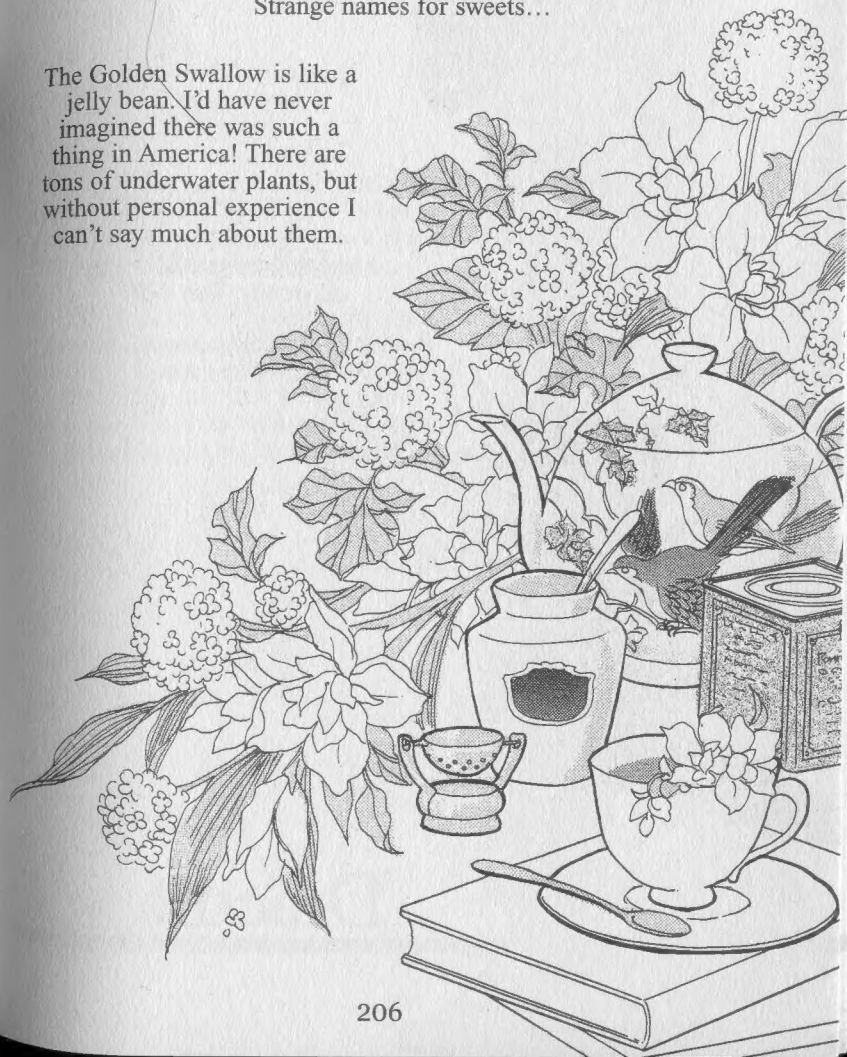
There are also horse racing video games,
like "Derby Stallion." They're fun to
play with friends, but the horses tend to
have the weirdest names...

Matchem, Herod, and Eclipse really are
the three ancestors of thoroughbreds.
Common sense applies to horses just as
well as people. Just so you know,
though, there's no limit to the possible
percentages after 20 generations.



When the Count and Leon drink tea, it could be Chinese black tea, Japanese tea, etc. It could be anything. Maybe it's an original brand... (The Count's own recipe?) Tea is a worldwide delicacy. Ah, here's the answers to the questions posed in Volume 3. The ones that are true are 3) and 5). "Beauty's Lips" is a sort of sweet made with lemon syrup – very addictive. It's also known as "Lady's Ring" and "Girl's Navel." Strange names for sweets...

The Golden Swallow is like a jelly bean. I'd have never imagined there was such a thing in America! There are tons of underwater plants, but without personal experience I can't say much about them.



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IN DARKNESS

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Next issue...

DUAL:

Known as a shaper of destiny and a maker of kings and emperors, no creature has brought more change to the world than the legendary Kirin...or more death. When Count D offers to sell a Kirin to a young Congressman, the eager politician gladly accepts, not realizing that the price for such a transaction is frighteningly high.

DAY NURSERY

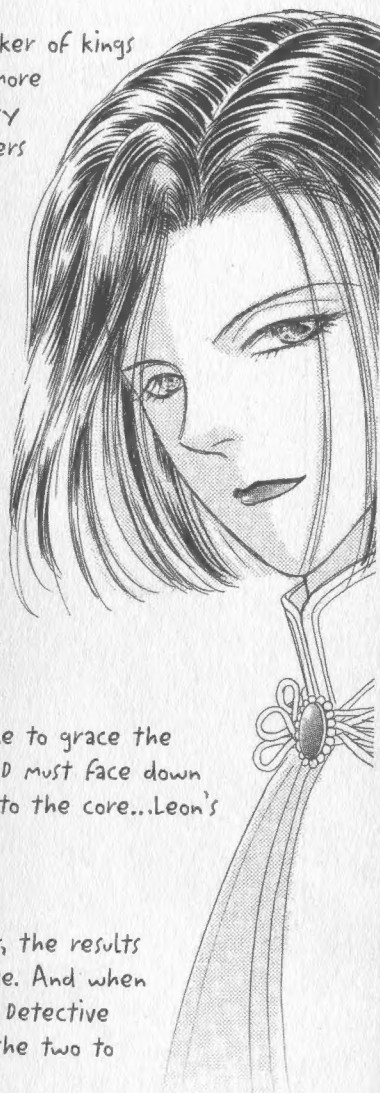
If Count D thought Detective Orcot was a handful, wait till he meets his brother! When Leon drops off his younger brother, Christopher, at the count's shop for a day, he wasn't expecting any trouble. After all, Christopher hasn't spoken a word in months. At least, not to any people.

DARLING

In what may be the most terrifying tale to grace the pages of *Pet Shop of Horrors* yet, Count D must face down a beast that will shake his stoic nature to the core...Leon's apartment!

DANCE

When dancers and dreams come together, the results can be wondrous—or terribly destructive. And when the place of union is Count D's pet shop, Detective Orcot has a pretty good idea which of the two to expect...



Pet Shop of Horrors™

Welcome to Chinatown! During your visit, be sure to stop by Count D's pet shop, where love and dreams are sold in the form of mythical creatures – but not without a catch. The buyer must adhere to a set of rules, which if broken, may result in death... or worse.

Digital

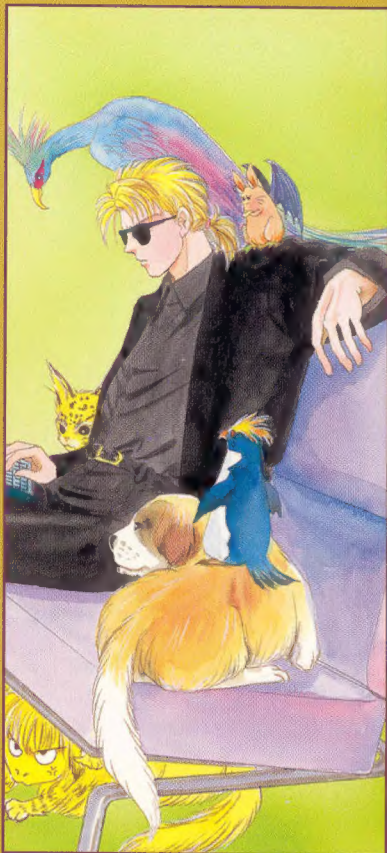
On firm orders from his chief, Leon reluctantly takes a murder witness, a tropical fish, to Count D in the hopes that the creepy pet shop owner will be able to extract any information. The count's seemingly supernatural ways have always been fishy to Leon, but the detective is going to have to scale back his skepticism if he's going to reel in his man.

Dark Horse

Count D falls in love with beauty in all its myriad forms, so when the eyes of a championship horse stir the fires of his aesthetic, he offers the owner things monetary and magical.

Dracula

When Count D fits the victim profile for a local serial killer, Leon and an FBI agent are assigned to protect him. So what will working so close to the count mean to he and Leon's love/hate relationship?



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Pet Shop of Horrors™

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